130. Following the past practice of the Commission and after informal consultations, the Chairman proposed and the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegation Vice-Chairmen: H.E. Mr. A.M. Zahiruddin Khan (Bangladesh), H.E. Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), H.E. Adi Finau Tabakaucoro (Fiji), H.E. Mr. Salman Khursheed (India), H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas (Indonesia), H.E. Dr. Mohammad Tabibian (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Mr. Koji Kakizawa (Japan), Hon. Taomati T. Iuta (Kiribati), H.E. Mr. Soubanh Sritthirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic), H.E. Dato Syed Hamid Albar (Malaysia), H.E. Mr. Jalbuuguin Choinkhor (Mongolia), H.E. Brigadier-General D.O. Abel (Myanmar), Hon. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat (Nepal), H.E. Mr. Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali (Pakistan), Hon. Tomas Padilla (Philippines), H.E. Mr. Lee Sang-Ock (Republic of Korea), H.E. Dr. Aline K. Wong (Singapore), Hon. J.C. Cocker (Tonga), Hon. Serge Vohor (Vanuatu) and H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan (Viet Nam).

131. Mr. Shadrach Fanega (Solomon Islands) was elected Rapporteur of the plenary session.

132. The Chairman proposed and the Commission decided to appoint two Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 7-9. Committee of the Whole I elected Mr. Soedjono Kramadibrata (Indonesia) Chairman and Mr. Murray Cobban (Australia) and Mr. Kenji Shimizu (Japan) Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Ang (Viet Nam) was elected Rapporteur. Committee of the Whole II elected H.E. Mr. Khumbagyn Olzvoy (Mongolia) Chairman and the Hon. Corazon Alma de Leon (Philippines), Mr. Robert J.P. Church (United Kingdom) and Mr. Jean-Pierre Nirua (Vanuatu) Vice-Chairmen. Mr. S.A. Karunaratne (Sri Lanka) was elected Rapporteur. The Commission also decided to constitute an informal working group on draft resolutions under the chairmanship of Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. Rabindra K. Shakya (Nepal) was elected Vice-Chairman of the informal working group.

133. The Chairman announced at the Commission's 728th meeting that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairmen, constituting the Credentials Committee, had examined the credentials of all the representatives. One member of the Credentials Committee expressed a reservation regarding the credentials of a delegation. With that reservation recorded, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen constituting the Credentials Committee found the credentials of all the representatives to be in order.

B. Agenda

134. At its 725th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.119, E/ESCAP/L.120 and Corr.1 and 2).
4. Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region as well as regional responses and initiatives in those fields:
   (a) Review of the development of the ESCAP region (ST/ESCAP/1095);
   (b) Impact of recent international developments, including the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, on the economies of the ESCAP region (E/ESCAP/823);
   (c) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, including the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (E/ESCAP/824, E/ESCAP/ 825).
5. Regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region: prospects, priorities and policy options (E/ESCAP/826).
6. Revision of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/827, E/ESCAP/828, E/ESCAP/829, E/ESCAP/888).
7. Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and its regional institutions as well as reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/830, E/ESCAP/831, E/ESCAP/832, E/ESCAP/833, E/ESCAP/834 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/835, E/ESCAP/836, E/ESCAP/837, E/ESCAP/838 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/839, E/ESCAP/840 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/841, E/ESCAP/842, E/ESCAP/843, E/ESCAP/844, E/ESCAP/845, E/ESCAP/846, E/ESCAP/847, E/ESCAP/848, E/ESCAP/849, E/ESCAP/850, E/ESCAP/851, E/ESCAP/852, E/ESCAP/853, E/ESCAP/854, E/ESCAP/856, E/ESCAP/857, E/ESCAP/858, E/ESCAP/859, E/ESCAP/860 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/861, E/ESCAP/862, E/ESCAP/863, E/ESCAP/864, E/ESCAP/865, E/ESCAP/866, E/ESCAP/881, E/ESCAP/882, E/ESCAP/883, E/ESCAP/884 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/885, E/ESCAP/887).

8. Programme planning:

   (a) First revision of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, including implications of the thematic programming approach (E/ESCAP/867 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

   (b) Biennial programme budget, 1992-1993, adopted by the General Assembly and proposed programme changes (E/ESCAP/868, E/ESCAP/869 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/870 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/871).

9. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (E/ESCAP/872).

10. Special problems faced by the Pacific island countries: the Commission's activities in the Pacific (E/ESCAP/873 and Corr.1).

11. Special problems faced by the least developed countries, including report on the progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (E/ESCAP/874, E/ESCAP/875).

12. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP funded by extrabudgetary resources and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/876 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/877 and Add.1).

13. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/878 and Add.1).

14. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/879 and Corr.1).

15. Admission of new members (E/ESCAP/880 and Add.1-7).

16. Other matters.

17. Adoption of the report of the Commission (E/ESCAP/L.121).

C. Account of proceedings

135. The session was declared open by H.E. Mr. Lee Sang-Ock, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the outgoing Chairman. The Secretary-General of the United Nations delivered an opening statement. H.E. Mr. Li Peng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, delivered the inaugural address.

Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

136. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that the session was being convened in the original meeting place of the Commission nearly 45 years earlier. The hosting of the current session of the Commission, the foremost regional intergovernmental forum, was a further indication of the commitment of China to the promotion of international cooperation and multilateralism and its role in promoting awareness of the problems and needs of the third world.

137. China had consistently adhered to a policy of peaceful coexistence, among nations large and small. The Secretary-General recalled the important role played by China in the pursuit of peace and understanding at the Bandung Conference in 1956. At the current session, China was again demonstrating its commitment to promoting cooperation among the countries of the region, in the spirit of Bandung.

138. As the most populous developing country in the world, China understood well the aspirations of the peoples of the third world for better opportunities in life and had been at the forefront in pointing out that the discrepancies between North and South were aggravated by a widening economic gap and by increasing inequality between rich and poor in the world.

139. China had consistently supported the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and advocated respect for the principles of equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence in relations among States. At the recently concluded eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, China had championed the cause of the developing countries and urged that the North-South dialogue and cooperation between North and South be strengthened. The Beijing Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in 1991 by Ministers from 41 developing countries, had reaffirmed that the right to development of developing countries must be fully recognized.

140. Economic and social development was one of the highest priorities of the United Nations. That had been evident at recent important conferences on development, including the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women and the current session of the Commission.

141. Although Asia had experienced vigorous growth in the past few years, the general slackening in the world economy was affecting the pace of progress in the region. A number of countries in Asia and most of Africa and Latin America had faced a crisis situation for many years and many had actually suffered a decline in living standards. A source of great uncertainty was the difficult transition being faced by the countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In order to redress that situation, it was

essential to restore buoyancy to the world economy and put it on a path of sustainable growth and development. The end of the cold war provided the international community with an opportunity to turn to the task of laying the basis for balanced and sustained development in all regions of the world. That implied the creation of conditions for a stable and more predictable international economic environment, in which all countries could pursue their national development goals.

142. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations would provide much-needed impetus to world economic recovery and result in the opening up of export opportunities for developing countries. In addition, adequate financing for development should be a major international concern. In that connection, the suggestion that an international conference on development financing should be convened deserved urgent attention.

143. It was heartening that a number of Asian and Pacific countries had, in recent years, demonstrated remarkable resilience and economic dynamism in the face of serious external and domestic difficulties. That was a tribute to both the growth-oriented and sound policies pursued by Governments in the region and the vitality and creativity of their peoples. Their vigorous economic performance had been an encouraging indication that, with the right mix of policies and determination, developing countries could achieve rapid progress. Even in the Asian and Pacific region, however, a number of countries, particularly the least developed and Pacific island countries, had been unable to achieve significant economic growth, and still needed special support and assistance to accelerate their progress.

144. The challenge that confronted those countries was to break the cycle of stagnation and poverty, especially for those segments of the population that had so far not had access to the benefits of development. A collective effort would be needed to meet that challenge and to ensure that the poverty and illiteracy that persisted in the region were eradicated. Amelioration of social conditions was a prerequisite for sustained economic development.

145. It was, therefore, a source of satisfaction that the Commission's agenda at the current session gave prominence to the social dimensions of development. In that connection, an important consideration was the need to ensure access to opportunities for all and thereby reduce the differences that existed within and between the countries of Asia. That would be a major challenge for planners and policy makers of the region in the 1990s.

146. The Commission's adoption of a thematic approach to its work could lead to a greater degree of effectiveness, in terms of the services offered to its developing members and associate members and greater economy in the use of resources. Such an approach would also recognize the strong interrelationship among socio-economic issues.

147. Over the past 40 years, the economies in the region had experienced different patterns of progress and levels of prosperity. The resultant complementarity had created new opportunities for strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing the development process. In that regard, the theme of the current session of the Commission, "Regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region: prospects, priorities and policy options", was particularly relevant and timely.

148. Asia was clearly developing its own sense of identity and the countries of the region were manifesting a strong desire to forge greater cooperation. That continued a process initiated shortly after the Second World War, when the United Nations, in promoting decolonization, had helped to break down the colonial barriers that had divided Asia for centuries. It was also encouraging that, in the process, the involvement of the island developing countries in the Pacific was steadily increasing. With the enhanced prospects for constructive solutions to outstanding regional conflicts and problems, the United Nations and ESCAP would be prepared to do even more to promote cooperation and development in the entire region. The peaceful settlement in Cambodia and the pioneering nature of the responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) were symbolic of what could be achieved by working together, regionally and internationally.

149. The world was in the midst of momentous political, economic and social changes. Decades of conflict and dissension were giving way to hope and optimism. That historic transition was amply reflected in the United Nations, especially in the purposefulness and growing determination among members to work together. In fact, the assistance of the United Nations in settling long-standing disputes was being sought as never before in its history. It was also clear that opportunities abounded to achieve stable peace and balanced progress, not only by resolving old conflicts but also by redressing economic inequities and other social ills.

150. Faced with those challenging tasks, the renewal of confidence in the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, with the Organization performing a new and increasingly pivotal role as the instrument of the family of nations and as a catalyst for and active agent of progress and development, was a source of particular gratification.

Inaugural address by the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

151. The Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, speaking on behalf of the people and Government, welcomed those attending the session. He also expressed thanks to the Secretary-General for his personal attendance and important remarks at the inaugural session.

152. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), the predecessor of ESCAP, had been established in Shanghai in 1947. After 45 years, the holding of the forty-eighth session of the Commission in China, its birthplace, was an occasion of great joy. Over the years, ESCAP had made outstanding contributions to the economic growth and common prosperity of the region and had furthered cooperation among its members and associate members. ESCAP had rendered assistance to the Chinese people in their economic development, reform and opening up. On behalf of the Chinese Government, he expressed sincere appreciation to ESCAP which, it was hoped, would play a greater role in strengthening economic cooperation in the region.

153. During the past 45 years, the Asian and Pacific region had been the scene of frequent wars and conflicts, which had rendered many people homeless and miserable. Today, however, the region as a whole enjoyed stability and sustained economic growth compared with the continued political turmoil and instability in other parts of the world, and world economic stagnation. East Asia, in particular, where economic cooperation and trade were increasing, had maintained a high growth rate. The Asian and Pacific region was currently playing a more important role in the political and economic life of the world.

154. The Asian and Pacific region was vast, richly endowed and populous; it was composed of countries with diverse social systems, cultural traditions and levels of development. From past experience, it was clear that peace and prosperity could be attained and safeguarded only if countries in the region respected each other, lived in amity, devoted themselves to development, and strengthened cooperation. In the past one or two decades, those countries had been exploring ways of development suited to their actual conditions. Their experience of both success and failure pointed to one conclusion: only social stability could ensure economic development which, in turn, could promote social stability.

155. As a developing country, China had always pursued an independent foreign policy of peace. It stood firmly opposed to all forms of hegemony and power politics, and was ready to develop friendly relations and cooperation with all countries based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. China had extensive economic and trade links with countries in Asia and the Pacific. Committed to peace and stability in the region, China had always valued and participated actively in the promotion of regional economic cooperation, with a view to strengthening common prosperity and development.

156. China had taken economic development as its central task, adhering to reforms, an open policy and the four cardinal principles. Reform measures in the past 13 years had brought about significant achievements: economic growth had reached a new high, and living standards had improved markedly. The most recent sessions of the National People's Congress and the People's Political Consultative Conference had given another push to reform and economic development as a whole. The stability and development of the Asian and Pacific region presented China with a favourable international environment and opportunities for cooperation concurrently with the pursuit of reform and open policies. China's economic growth and improvement in living standards would in turn contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region. China was opening up not only to the Asian and Pacific region but also to other parts of the world; it was ready to enter into economic cooperation with all countries, both developed and developing.

157. The Asian and Pacific region contained more than half of the world's population. Its stability served world peace and its economic prosperity contributed to the world economy. In fact, it was a dynamic and promising region with great potential for development. So long as the basic virtues of mutual respect, equality, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity were upheld by countries of Asia and the Pacific, it would be possible to usher in a brighter and better future for the region.

158. Increased exchanges were an effective way to strengthen cooperation. Discussions on issues of common interest and exchange of experience on economic and social development would give a new impetus to cooperation and development in the Asian and Pacific region. China would spare no effort to intensify cooperation with ESCAP and its members and associate members and contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Asian and Pacific region.

Tribute to the former Executive Secretary of ESCAP

159. The Commission paid warm tribute to the former Executive Secretary, for his dedicated services to the Organization for nearly 11 years and for his notable contributions to strengthening regional cooperation among the countries of Asia and the Pacific with a view to accelerating the pace of their economic and social development. It wished him well in his future endeavours.

160. The Executive Secretary read out a message from the former Executive Secretary, in which he conveyed his deep appreciation and thanks to the Commission for the consistent and generous support extended to him during his term of office.

Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region as well as regional responses and initiatives in those fields

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

161. The Executive Secretary observed that the profound economic and political changes which had taken place in the world in recent years would continue to have a far-reaching impact on developments in the world economy as well as on the economies of the ESCAP region. He hoped that notwithstanding the changes, the development agenda would receive serious attention from all countries of the world. The ongoing process of transition would take many forms, would affect different countries in varying degrees, and was likely to be a painful, even a protracted, process. Through necessary adjustments by all concerned countries to those new developments, vastly increased economic space would be available for enhanced global interdependence. However, he expressed concern at the lack of an immediate recovery in the world economy, which had operated at a low level of overall performance in 1990, and had tended to stagnate in 1991, accompanied by virtual stagnation in world trade.

162. The Executive Secretary noted with satisfaction that despite those adverse developments in the world economy, the rates of economic growth in the ESCAP region had remained high, although there were considerable variations among the countries of the region. Strong growth in intraregional trade and domestic demand played an increasingly important role in overall economic growth. Growth in imports associated with growth in domestic demand, however, caused the external trade and balance-of-payments situation to deteriorate in most countries. A quick revival of export demand was necessary to prevent the balance of payments appearing as a constraint on the continuation of the growth process in the region.

163. The implementation of policy reforms at different levels pursued by most countries in the region would be jeopardized unless the trend in world trade was reversed quickly or additional external resource support became available. To be able to avoid set-backs and to minimize the considerable social costs involved in the course of reform and adjustment, external resource flows on an adequate scale and supportive trade measures were essential, particularly for the weaker economies of the region.

164. Despite the economic resilience of the Asian and Pacific region in recent decades, the average per capita income in the region remained low and the reputed dynamism and prosperity in the region remained limited to a small, though expanding, group of economies. The economic performance of the region's least developed and Pacific island economies continued to be generally weak. Their economic structure remained fragile and vulnerable to exogenous shocks, which greatly impaired their capacity for development.

165. Poverty was still the region's main challenge. Absolute poverty existed not only in the poorest and least developed countries but also in most other developing countries of the region. Unemployment and underemployment affected more people in individual countries of the region than the total national population of many other countries in the world. Many countries in the region continued to be burdened with high rates of population growth and unbalanced demographic distribution. Inadequate physical and social infrastructure seriously hindered development. Uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation had become increasingly serious problems. Inadequate attention to those and many other social development problems tended to generate social discontent and tension.

166. The Executive Secretary enumerated a number of measures that the Commission had recently adopted or initiated in response to the existing problems. In recognition of the basic issues in social development, the regional Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond had been adopted with the aim of improving the quality of life of all the people in the region. Concerted action at the national and regional levels was required to implement the Strategy.

167. In view of the new challenges facing the economies of the region owing to emerging regional blocs, protectionism and limited access to new and modern technologies, which could constrain the process of promoting manufacturing activities, the Commission had mandated an examination of the issues at the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, which was scheduled to be held at Tehran and hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

168. The vast requirements of the ESCAP region for the development and upgrading of its infrastructure had become a critical issue for the future. Impressive gains had been made in that regard in the implementation of the programmes of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. The infrastructure needs in the transport and communications sectors, however, deserved much greater attention as the region looked ahead with optimism to continued economic expansion during the 1990s. The growing trend towards greater intraregional trade and investment also demanded a stronger transport and communications network. As mandated by the Commission, the regional Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, to be held at Bangkok from 3 to 5 June 1992, would consider those important issues and make appropriate policy recommendations.

169. Population issues had also assumed greater importance in recent years. The Commission's decision to hold the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in Bali, Indonesia, was of great significance in that context. The explosive rate of growth of the urban population in the Asian and Pacific region was a

related area of critical and growing concern. If not properly managed, urbanization would lead to unbalanced subnational growth and development disparities. In recognition of that, the Commission had adopted, on 13 June 1990, resolution 46/2 on urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region — Towards environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas, and the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization was scheduled for early 1993.

170. The Executive Secretary recommended that the Commission should strongly urge the members and associate members to participate actively in formulating appropriate strategies for the region in the above-mentioned fields.

171. The Commission had played a catalytic role during recent decades in promoting policies and action for integrating environmental considerations into development objectives and priorities, including the adoption of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. The region still had a long way to go in order to be able to provide reasonable living standards for all its people, while ensuring environmental sustainability. Countries of the region could emphasize their needs during the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. ESCAP, through the inter-agency committee established under the direction of the Commission, would assist in the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of that Conference.

172. The Executive Secretary noted that the changes taking place in the post-cold war era, *inter alia*, raised the possibility of the emergence of new patterns of national, regional and international division of labour on the basis of comparative advantage. Regional cooperation arrangements were emerging in many parts of the world, so that fuller advantage could be taken of those opportunities and economies of scale. The countries of the ESCAP region were averse to the formation of a closed trading bloc, and supported the open multilateral trading system. The Commission could make a strong plea for a speedy and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which it was expected would safeguard the interests of the developing countries.

173. In an open multilateral trading arrangement, enhanced regional cooperation could provide strong impetus to and stimulus for accelerated development. The rapid growth in the ESCAP region, though uneven, provided opportunities for eventually reducing the regional disparity in per capita income. In order to facilitate that process, it was imperative to spread the growth impulse from the small nucleus of dynamic economies to the periphery through widening circles of intraregional trade and investment. Those considerations provided a sufficient *raison d'être* for enhanced regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific to further stimulate trade and investment within the region.

174. In that context, the Executive Secretary drew attention to the findings and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing in December 1991, on fruitful economic cooperation benefiting all countries of the region, and looked forward to a lively debate at the current session of the Commission on the practical steps to be taken to further promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation among members and associate members. He observed that the resolution of a number of regional conflicts and reduction in tension in the region, and the addition of a number of new members and associate members, provided the Commission with the opportunity to play a more active role in promoting regional economic cooperation.

175. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary observed that the Commission had played an important role during past years in bringing the countries of the region closer, in forging cooperation among them, and also in contributing to the promotion of peace and progress in the region. He fully subscribed to the widespread optimism that the countries of Asia and the Pacific had a strikingly bright future. There remained many obstacles in resolving the problems of hunger, disease, illiteracy and inequitable distribution of income and wealth. Nevertheless, with the available pool of knowledge, management skills and industriousness of the people, substantial strides could be taken towards the fulfilment of the aspirations for a better life of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific.

Review of the development of the ESCAP region

176. The Commission reviewed recent economic and social development in the region, based on, *inter alia*, the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1991* (ST/ESCAP/1095), which surveyed the recent trend of performance and policies of the economies of the ESCAP region.

177. The Commission noted that the rapidly changing international economic and political environment had a profound impact on the development of the ESCAP region. Many of the changes taking place, such as the end of the cold war, which was ushering in a more peaceful environment globally and in the ESCAP region, augured well for the development of the region. Nevertheless, uncertainty and potential instability during the period of transition could prove damaging to the continuation and necessary acceleration of the region's economic growth and development.

178. The Commission also noted the continued resilience and economic dynamism in the region despite the adverse impact of the slow-down in world economic growth and international trade in 1990 and 1991. Strong growth in intraregional trade and investment

flows, as well as growth in domestic demand, had provided the main support for the sustained growth process in the region, which was strengthened by wide-ranging policy reforms that liberalized, *inter alia*, trade and investment regimes. The prospects for continued strong growth, though generally good, depended to a large extent on the quick and strong reversal of the current trend in world economic and trade growth.

179. The Commission took note of the various reform measures, introduced by member Governments and reported at length to the Commission, aimed generally at allowing freer play to market forces to guide economic activities. In that context, it was felt that the functioning of even an efficient and stable free market, both nationally and internationally, required a regulatory framework. The Commission took note of the secretariat study on the challenges of macro-economic management and policy reform contained in part two of the *Survey*, which provided a comprehensive account of the extensive and far-reaching reforms and adjustments in macroeconomic and other policies for enhanced market-based economic activity, efficiency and competitiveness, and private sector participation across the developing ESCAP region. The Commission welcomed the reforms, which had contributed to greater economic openness and cooperation between economies within and outside the region.

180. The Commission considered the reform process crucial for sustained economic growth and structural transformation. In that connection, it stressed the need for international support for the developing economies that were implementing extensive policy adjustments and reforms, as well as those economies in transition to a market-based economic policy. It was recognized, however, that such support should not be at the expense of the needed level of assistance to other developing countries. Several delegations expressed concern at the prospect of increased competition for and cost of external financial resources, in view of the enlarged demand for global savings as a consequence of, *inter alia*, the integration of restructuring economies, both within and outside the region, into the world economy.

181. The Commission endorsed the view that government had an important role to play in the promotion of sustainable and equitable growth through market-based policies, particularly in the provision of infrastructure, the maintenance of adequate levels of social services, and protective environmental regulation. It recognized that in carrying out the tasks of development, both government and the market needed to function in a supportive and complementary manner.

182. In view of the region's growing reliance on trade and the increased interdependence in the world economy, the Commission laid stress on maintaining an open multilateral trading system. It strongly urged that the prolonged Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations should be brought to a speedy and successful conclusion, with balanced results that safeguarded the interests of the developing countries adequately. It voiced deep concern that, in the absence of such an outcome, protectionism in various forms and guises would affect international trade flows adversely, restraining global exports, especially those of the developing countries. It also expressed concern at a possible diminution of financial flows to the developing countries in view of the competing demand for resources elsewhere in the world, especially in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, it was pointed out that donors and creditors had so far met the additional demand without reducing the flow to the developing countries.

183. Improvement in the North-South relationship was considered one of the greatest challenges facing the world in the twenty-first century. It was noted that the recently concluded eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had played an important role in promoting North-South cooperation for a better world.

184. The Commission took note of the uneven performance of the economies of the region, a region characterized by considerable diversity. It expressed particular concern at the lack of dynamism in the region's least developed and Pacific island economies, and stressed the need for reducing the growing economic disparity in the region through an ever-widening circle of trade and investment from the region's dynamic core to the periphery of less developed countries.

185. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the recent trend of expansion of such flows and agreed that consensually based regionwide economic cooperation that supported the various subregional cooperative arrangements and remained open to other regions or subregions should be strengthened to give a boost to intraregional trade and investment flows and the development and transfer of technology. In that regard, it was also considered essential to strengthen the region's transport and communications infrastructure. Such regional cooperation would not only contribute to the development of the economies of the region but would also provide stimulus to the world economy.

186. The Commission expressed concern at the serious lag in the region's social development despite substantial economic progress in many countries. Poverty and deprivation still affected a vast number of people in the region, which was experiencing rapid population growth. Alleviation of poverty, with adequate safeguards for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and the disabled, should therefore remain the focus of national and regional efforts.

187. The Commission expressed deep concern at the serious environmental deterioration in the region; that deterioration needed to be arrested and reversed, concurrently with carrying out the urgent tasks of alleviating poverty through accelerated economic growth

and development. Towards that end it was necessary to follow a path of environmentally sound and sustainable development, taking fully into account the complex interrelationship between population, poverty, resources and the environment. In that regard, the Commission voiced strong support of the full implementation of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 47/7 of 10 April 1991 on integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific. Implementation of the Strategy, however, required broad international cooperation and in that regard the Commission looked forward to the successful outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in June 1992.

188. The Commission emphasized its own catalytic role in furthering the economic and social progress of the region, and looked forward to its strengthened role in the future. Towards that end, the Commission lent support to the restructuring of its subsidiary structure with a view to revitalizing its functioning, bringing it more into line with the region's emerging needs.

189. The Commission adopted resolution 48/12 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Impact of recent international developments, including the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, on the economies of the ESCAP region

190. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/823, entitled "Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region as well as regional responses and initiatives in those fields: impact of recent international developments, including the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, on the economies of the ESCAP region".

191. The Commission noted that the three major developments in the global economy which were among those of most concern to all countries, especially developing countries of the ESCAP region in the 1990s, were the end of the cold war, the emergence of the single European market and the outcome of the Uruguay Round.

192. The Commission expressed the hope that the cessation of the cold war and the introduction of economic and political reforms would lead to the expansion of global economic space and provide the basis for accelerated development in trade and investment. However, some delegations expressed apprehension about new destabilizing factors, especially the widening gap between the rich and poor countries. Nevertheless, the Commission hoped that the relaxation of political tension would make it possible for the developed countries to reduce their defence expenditure and use some of their resources to assist in the development of the developing countries. It also hoped that the widely anticipated "peace dividend" would help to boost the current level of official development assistance, which had stagnated in real terms over the past decade or so. The Commission also hoped that the developing countries in the ESCAP region could take measures to reduce their military expenditure and channel the resources resulting therefrom into the development of their infrastructure and social sectors.

193. The Commission noted that the relaxation of political tension and the restoration of diplomatic relations among erstwhile adversaries had fuelled a significant increase in trade and investment in many parts of the world, especially in the ESCAP region. The rapid expansion in intraregional trade and investment in the region also resulted partly from the reduction in international tension.

194. The Commission focused its attention on the trend towards regional economic cooperation and integration, which had intensified in the past 20 years in various regions all over the world. While the Commission noted the emergence of the single European market in 1992 and the possible extension of a North American free trade agreement (NAFTA) to Mexico, concern was expressed as to the possible adverse impact on developing countries of the ESCAP region, especially on production and investment opportunities. However, some delegations stated that that was no reason for apprehension about the European Economic Community (EEC) and NAFTA evolving into exclusive regional trading blocs, since there were no common external tariffs.

195. The Commission noted that while a convergence of views had been achieved on a number of issues under negotiation in the Uruguay Round, the virtual impasse on some important issues was delaying its successful and satisfactory conclusion. It stressed the vital importance of an early, balanced and successful result of the Uruguay Round, which would safeguard the interests of all, particularly the developing and the least developed countries. It hoped that such a result would not only strengthen multilateralism but would also make the world trading system more rule-based and effective. It felt that successful completion was essential, not only for reversing the drift towards protectionism but also for avoiding any trends towards unilateralism and closed regionalism that would only fragment world markets and reduce the rate of growth of world trade.

196. The Commission viewed a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round as important for stimulating world trade at a time when its growth had been slowing down. At the same time, it stressed the need for strengthening regional economic cooperation and for promoting subregional and regional arrangements and ensuring that they functioned as "building blocks" of an open multilateral trading system and not as barriers to trade, fragmenting markets and slowing growth.

Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, including the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond

197. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/824, E/ESCAP/825 and E/ESCAP/886. It commended the secretariat on the excellent quality of those documents and expressed satisfaction with the work reflected therein.

198. Social development problems, which had been manifested in a variety of forms, including widening income disparities, excessive population growth, rising poverty levels, illiteracy, malnutrition and morbidity, and inadequate social services and employment opportunities, were critical all over the world, but more so in the developing countries of the region. The Commission therefore welcomed the adoption by the United Nations of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade which incorporated those issues and concerns, and which would have implications for the work of ESCAP. The Commission noted in that regard the work initiated by ESCAP, particularly the adoption of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, aimed at bringing about an improvement in the quality of life of all the people of the ESCAP region and emphasizing distributive justice, poverty alleviation and popular participation as targets to be achieved. The Commission agreed to continue to explore ways in which ESCAP could make a realistic and substantive contribution in the key areas identified in the International Development Strategy.

199. The Commission endorsed the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Manila in October 1991. In endorsing the Strategy, the Commission noted that its content was in accordance with the Commission's heightened concern for social development, and it recognized the need to give greater attention to the interdependence between social and economic development as expressed in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

200. The Commission urged all members and associate members to adopt measures to implement the regional Social Development Strategy, focusing on the three central goals of poverty eradication, distributive justice and popular participation. It noted that the effective implementation of the Strategy required comprehensive national plans of action. It emphasized that, within the context of the Strategy, measures should be carried out with the specific involvement of the economic sectors, as the implementation of economic policies without due attention to the social dimension often resulted in unintended adverse social consequences.

201. In the implementation of the Strategy within their countries, several delegations emphasized the interrelation between economic and social development and the fact that rapid economic development had in certain cases had a negative impact on society. It was pointed out that economic growth was a necessary but not a sufficient condition for social development, and that the national implementation of the Strategy would ensure that development programmes were designed to avoid that pitfall. With reference to the social issues, particular concern was expressed with regard to the following: income and wealth inequities between countries and among social groups within countries; inadequate employment opportunities; unequal access to education for deprived social groups; poor health and nutrition; chronic rural poverty; deteriorating urban social environments; rising juvenile crime rates; deteriorating family structures; and the rapid spread of drug abuse and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). It was observed that the complexity of those development problems required interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral policies and programmes.

202. The Commission recognized the existing and potential contributions of non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the delivery of social services to disadvantaged social groups, particularly in the areas of education, skills training, health, employment promotion, crime prevention and poverty alleviation. The Commission stressed the importance of collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in dealing with the region's pressing social problems. It pointed out that the Strategy provided a sound basis on which the further development of such intersectoral collaboration could proceed.

203. The Commission requested the secretariat to assist, subject to the availability of resources, members and associate members in devising and implementing national action programmes for social development in accordance with the provisions of the regional Social Development Strategy and the broader guidelines provided by the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

204. The Commission adopted resolution 48/5 on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond.

Regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region: prospects, priorities and policy options

205. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/826, as well as background paper ESCAP(XLVIII)/INF.4, entitled "Studies in regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region".

206. There was a lively debate on the prospects, principles and policy options for regional economic cooperation and on the documentation prepared by the secretariat on the theme topic. The Commission noted the prospects for economic cooperation in the ESCAP region, which appeared to have become brighter following the relatively slow progress in the preceding decades. It appreciated the useful work of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing in December 1991, and the guidance it had provided to the secretariat in improving the documents. The enhanced prospects for regional economic cooperation stemmed from both an improvement in the external environment and a growing perception of the need and opportunities for greater economic interaction with neighbouring countries, resulting from the emerging complementarities among the economies of the region. The perception of an improved environment for regional cooperation was also strengthened by the increasing trade and investment flows from the more dynamic countries to other parts of the region, as well as by the growing convergence of macroeconomic policies and productivity among ESCAP members and associate members.

207. The Commission endorsed the view that the prime motivation for regional economic cooperation should not stem from a reaction to concerns about the emergence of blocs in other regions or the apprehensions about a more difficult world trading environment, including the prolonged delay in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, but should be perceived in terms of the benefits to be derived from the growing complementarities emerging among the region's economies.

208. The Commission generally agreed that the guiding principles for regional economic cooperation should be respect for diversity, openness, equality and mutual benefit, common prosperity and consensus-building. Several delegations stressed the importance of openness, and expressed the view that the consultative mechanism of ESCAP should be open to all its members. Some delegations pointed out that the work of ESCAP in regional economic cooperation should recognize the importance of existing subregional cooperative mechanisms and be built upon existing relationships of regional interdependence and economic integration, and that giving preferential treatment to regional countries would be to the long-term disadvantage of all ESCAP members and associate members.

209. In the discussion on priorities, the Commission generally concurred that regional economic cooperation should focus on the following areas: (a) increasing intraregional flows of investment and development finance; (b) increasing complementarities and intraregional trade; (c) regional cooperation in science and technology; and (d) development of regional infrastructure. One delegation hoped that the proposed committee for regional economic cooperation would focus on those areas for the next few years. Another delegation expressed the view that, beginning with the forty-ninth session, the Commission should choose one of those four priority items as the theme topic of the session.

210. The Commission observed that in the ESCAP region, intraregional investment had been growing for some time, and there had been an acceleration in recent years of investment from the four Asian NIEs (newly industrializing economies) flowing into each other and into the other economies of the region. However, some delegations regretted that the flow of foreign direct investment into the ESCAP region was relatively skewed and that the share of such flows to South Asia and the Pacific island countries was dismally low. They urged the secretariat to assist those countries in capturing a larger proportion of such flows.

211. There was general consensus on the need to expand private investment flows to the ESCAP region and a number of measures were suggested in that regard. Although most delegations agreed that financial markets should be developed and liberalized, and although there was need for the harmonization of banking laws, some felt that preferential treatment should not be accorded to regional investors. Some delegations saw no need to reduce the level of competition for foreign direct investment or to give preference to regional firms or banks. However, there was a need to develop equity markets and stock exchanges in the region. One delegation urged ESCAP members and associate members, especially the developing and least developed economies, to join the Group 15 Project on South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC), which was aimed at promoting investment, trade and technology transfer among the developing and least developed countries.

212. The Commission observed that, given the increasing complementarities among the production structures of ESCAP members and associate members, intraregional trade expansion could be used gainfully as the basis for enhanced regional cooperation. The Commission also endorsed the main focus of the study relating to the priorities and feasible operational mechanisms for strengthening cooperative endeavours to expand intraregional trade, and considered that the focus was timely and appropriate as regional strategies had been assuming an increasingly important role in the world economy. At the same time, several delegations cautioned against the creation of inward-looking trading blocs which could affect adversely the evolution of an open multilateral trading system through the current negotiations in the Uruguay Round, on which the hopes of many Asian and Pacific developing economies were based.

213. While the Commission welcomed the trend towards the expansion of intraregional trade in Asia, it expressed the hope that all members and associate members would benefit from the process. In particular, it urged that the least developed and the Pacific island economies be brought into the virtuous circle of a trade-led development path. To that end, the Commission urged the region's industrialized countries and the NIEs to extend their maximum support, not only to expand their trade to those countries, but also, where economic factors permitted, to relocate industries from the more developed to the less developed countries in the region. In that context, several delegations stated that they attached importance to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process.

214. In order to promote growth in intraregional trade, the Commission urged the removal of trade barriers and the establishment or strengthening of trade relations among all countries in the region, regardless of their political ideology. In that connection, the Commission endorsed the reduction of trade barriers, a policy being adopted increasingly by several countries, as explained by their respective delegations. It welcomed the agreement by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to create the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) within 15 years. It endorsed the view that cooperation at the regional level should complement and build upon the subregional organizations in the region.

215. The Commission generally endorsed the various measures for strengthening intraregional trade in the Asian and Pacific region suggested in document E/ESCAP/826. In particular, strong support was expressed by several delegations for further investigations by the secretariat into the feasibility of giving concrete shape to the proposals for sharing trade market information; establishment of a network of national chambers of commerce to stimulate trade-related investment; enhancement of human resources development for the trade sector; and the undertaking of further research on the pattern of intraregional trade and complementarities through a network of research institutions. The Commission agreed that those proposals should be submitted to the committee for regional economic cooperation for more detailed examination and for working out the modalities for implementation.

216. The Commission generally endorsed the various measures suggested in the secretariat document for strengthening regional cooperation in science and technology. It observed that greater intraregional trade and investment flows, as well as the heterogeneity of regional countries with respect to their levels of scientific and technological development, provided enhanced opportunities for regional cooperation, since such differences resulted in higher degrees of complementarity.

217. However, the Commission felt that more emphasis should be given to national technological capability-building, the creation of a climate conducive to the transfer of technology and its adoption and utilization, human resources development, promotion of private sector involvement in technological development, and clean and environmentally sound technologies.

218. The Commission was of the opinion that in the implementation of cooperative activities in science and technology, each country should decide on its own priorities, but the prime objective of cooperation should be the building up of the technological capabilities of all the countries, and particularly the weaker partners. There was a need for all countries to play a mutually supportive role in the building of technological capabilities and, in particular, in extending cooperation and assistance to the least developed, island developing and market-oriented transitional economies, especially in the development of human resources and expertise, and the adoption of a climate conducive to the provision of information, and transfer of technology, including technology for rural development.

219. The Commission endorsed the view that infrastructure development provided a potential for promoting regional economic development, and emphasized the need for greater private sector involvement in the development of transport infrastructure and services. Some delegations informed the Commission that their Governments had been actively advocating privatization. It was stressed that the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) should be fully utilized in order to derive the maximum benefit from that institution.

220. The Commission requested the secretariat to facilitate regional infrastructure development through such measures as the production of manuals and guidelines and the development of software and training courses on various aspects of infrastructure development. In addition, the Commission felt that the secretariat could assist regional infrastructure development in the following areas: railway technologies, harmonization of standards and requirements and traffic management; development of urban transport systems; and training in environmental impact assessment for infrastructure development planning.

221. The Commission was pleased to note the action taken by the secretariat with regard to infrastructure development, including the development of interregional and intraregional transport linkages and transport facilitation measures, especially those incorporated in phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific. The Commission also noted that the regional action programme for the above phase would be considered by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, which would be held at Bangkok from 3 to 5 June 1992.

222. The Commission stressed the need to build upon the complementarities of other institutions promoting intercountry cooperation in the region, namely ASEAN, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the South Pacific Commission (SPC), the Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC), APEC and the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC). The Commission noted that each of those institutions served the specific geographic, economic, trade and socio-cultural interests and needs of a subgroup of economies, and that although each subregional group might have its own agenda and priorities, each of them had the main objective of building greater cooperation in the region.

223. The Commission also reaffirmed the overarching role within the United Nations system of ESCAP in promoting regional economic cooperation, as designated by the General Assembly. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the formation of the committee for regional economic cooperation, which had been endorsed by the Intergovernmental Meeting held at Beijing in December 1991. The Commission also directed the Committee to focus its agenda on the priority areas for regional economic cooperation as identified in document E/ESCAP/826, and urged all countries in the ESCAP region to support the effort of the committee to enhance regional cooperation. One delegation urged that the committee, with the assistance of its high-level steering group, should, on the basis of identified priorities, draw up projects that were action-oriented, with clearly defined targets, and set in an appropriate time-frame.

224. The Commission adopted resolution 48/1 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation.

Revision of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission

225. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/827, E/ESCAP/828 and E/ESCAP/829.

226. It noted that, pursuant to its resolution 47/3 of 10 April 1991, the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission had been convened at Bangkok in January 1992. It also noted that the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, hosted by China and held at Beijing in December 1991, had considered and recommended an institutional mechanism for regional economic cooperation within the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission. The Commission was of the opinion that the recommendations made at the two meetings reflected the thinking of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, held at Bangkok in August 1990, with regard to the thematic concept and formed a sound basis for enhancing the efficiency of the work of the Commission and its subsidiary structure. It felt that, based on the recommendations of the two meetings, substantial agreement had been reached on a revised subsidiary structure, and endorsed those recommendations.

227. It noted, however, that the Meeting of Senior Officials had deferred a few issues for decision by the Commission and that the secretariat had also submitted to it a few matters for further consideration.

228. With regard to the status of the two special bodies, on the least developed and land-locked developing countries and the Pacific island developing countries, the Commission was of the opinion that the needs and problems of the two groups of countries were unique in their own way and required different approaches and strategies. Although, in terms of economy and administrative efficiency and in view of the difficulty in ensuring adequate participation, a few delegations felt that the two special bodies should be merged, opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of keeping them separate. Therefore, the Commission decided that there should be two special bodies, one for the least developed and land-locked developing countries and another for the Pacific island developing countries. A plea was made for adequate resources, including manpower, to service the special body on the Pacific island developing countries so that it could fulfil the functions expected of it.

229. On the question of countries in transition to a market economy, some delegations stressed the importance of providing guidance and assistance to such countries. It was felt that that work could be handled either by the committee for regional economic cooperation or by the special body on the least developed and land-locked developing countries.

230. The Commission was of the opinion that the proposed advisory board on development policies should not be established as a permanent subsidiary organ of the Commission, since there did not appear to be a demonstrated need for such a board. Some delegations felt that the purposes envisaged for the proposed board could be served by an ad hoc group, need-based and convened from time to time by the Commission at its own initiative or upon the advice of its subsidiary bodies or the Executive Secretary. The view was expressed that the board could be established on an experimental basis for five years and evaluated at the end of that time. The view was also expressed that consideration could be given to setting up a regional network comprising development specialists from academia, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and Governments to provide expert guidance in implementing the thematic programme of work. The majority of the representatives who spoke thought that the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) could perform the functions proposed for the advisory board; a few other representatives did not agree with that idea.

Selected issues in fields of activity of the Commission and its regional institutions as well as reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

242. The Commission had before it the reports of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on its sixteenth session and of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, which had met during the year prior to the forty-eighth session. It also considered the sectoral issue papers and the progress reports on the implementation of relevant resolutions.

243. In her opening statement, the Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted the major issues in various fields of activity as presented in the documents, on which the Commission's view was sought. The attention of the Commission was drawn to issues concerning: (a) the agricultural cooperative as an institution for the alleviation of rural poverty, and other selected issues in the field of agriculture and rural development; (b) problems of transition in the economies of the ESCAP region; (c) policy options for responding to the threat of global warming; (d) the status of and potential for energy conservation in small and medium-scale industries; (e) the progress and functioning of the regional energy working groups; (f) integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific; (g) regional activities relating to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992; (h) progress in the work of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development; (i) the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies towards the year 2000; (j) capacity-building for settlement development and management; (k) the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific; (l) a technical consultancy development programme in Asia and the Pacific; (m) trade in manufactures and mineral commodities; trade promotion in emerging market-oriented economies; and trade facilitation; (n) strengthening of national capabilities in tourism development; (o) the role of natural resources assessment in sustainable development; (p) efficient water resources management for sustainable development; (q) natural disaster reduction; (r) regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management; (s) the causes and consequences of changing family structure; (t) the findings and recommendations of the study on the implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources; (u) the strengthening of cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in promoting social development; (v) statistics and government computerization; (w) transnational corporations; (x) report of the Joint Meeting of the Inter-agency Consultative Group and Senior Government Officials on Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1992-1996); (y) new developments in land transport in Asia; and (z) integration of women's concerns into development planning.

244. Attention was also drawn to the preparatory work undertaken in relation to: (a) the convening of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, a ministerial conference on urbanization, and a ministerial conference on women in development; and (b) phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1992-1996), including the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications. Attention was also drawn to the progress reports on the implementation of various resolutions.

245. The Commission also considered the reports of the following regional institutions and projects and regional intergovernmental bodies: Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas, Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, Pacific Energy Development Programme, Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, Regional Energy Development Programme, Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and Typhoon Committee.

246. The Commission reviewed the issues in the various sectors, as reflected below.

Agricultural and rural development

247. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/830. It commended the secretariat on the comprehensiveness and high quality of that document, which provided a detailed review of relevant aspects and selected issues pertaining to agriculture and rural development.

248. It observed that over the past decade encouraging developments had taken place to boost the rural economy and the livelihood of farmers in a large number of countries of the ESCAP region. Rural poverty, in that context, was gradually being alleviated. However, some 300 million people were still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Greater efforts were required by the countries of the region and international agencies to create a favourable economic environment for enhanced agricultural development in the region.

Agricultural cooperatives

249. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's review of agricultural cooperatives as an institution for the alleviation of poverty. Several members and associate members exchanged information on their respective experience, activities and prospects related to the development of their cooperatives.

250. Cooperative institutions were at various stages of development in the region. That factor should be taken into account when considering future programmes to assist their development. A flexible approach should be followed, focusing on local conditions, securing effective government and private support, and establishing appropriate institutional structures for ensuring the autonomous and viable management of cooperatives. In that context, the Commission endorsed the recommendations for cooperative development contained in paragraphs 46-53 of document E/ESCAP/830.

251. The Commission was informed of the establishment by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the Regional Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific, which would provide training, exchange of information and promotion of ECDC/TCDC (economic and technical cooperation among developing countries) exchanges.

Fertilizer marketing, distribution and use

252. The Commission expressed appreciation for the numerous activities carried out by the ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP), which were considered pertinent to the task of agricultural development in the countries of the region. FADINAP activities, covering training, information dissemination and advisory services, had benefited the members and associate members immensely. The Commission considered the achievements of the Network during the year to be remarkable. It therefore urged that the good work should be continued. Some delegations also urged that its scope and coverage should be expanded.

253. It commended the regional and national training courses conducted by FADINAP on regulatory aspects, including standardization, quality control and fertilizer legislation. Those activities had been of great use to both the public and the private sector agencies in the recipient countries.

254. The Commission valued highly the collaboration of FADINAP with the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) in holding annual regional fertilizer conferences. The representative of Indonesia indicated the readiness of his country to host the 1992 IFA/FADINAP regional fertilizer conference, and informed participants that the Indonesian Fertilizer Producers Association would act as the focal agency for that purpose.

255. The Commission expressed appreciation for the work carried out to strengthen fertilizer information systems in the region by creating data banks and facilitating the exchange of fertilizer information among the countries of the region through networking arrangements. That activity was generously funded by the Government of Japan. The representative of Japan stated that his country would continue its assistance for appropriate projects in that field.

256. The Commission welcomed the new activity of FADINAP concerning environmentally friendly fertilization through balanced fertilizer use as being appropriate and timely. It felt that the implementation of the project would contribute to protection of the environment, maintenance of soil fertility and enhancement of balanced agricultural development.

257. It noted with appreciation the technical assistance and advisory services provided by FADINAP to the countries of the ESCAP region in various fields of fertilizer sector development, and urged the continuation of those vital activities.

258. The Commission expressed gratitude to the donors, including Finland, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, for their generous financial assistance to FADINAP, and requested them to continue their support. The representative of the Netherlands stated that his country had been supporting FADINAP from its inception and would consider the continuation of some support in the future. He suggested that it would be worthwhile to assess the contribution of FADINAP activities to the recent rapid increase in the growth of fertilizer use in the region.

Pesticide safety and environment programme

259. The Commission highly commended the work of the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) in connection with safeguarding the environment and health through the dissemination of information on the proper and safe use of pesticides, particularly in view of the upward trend in the use of agro-pesticides in recent years. It appreciated the efforts made by ARSAP in the publication of *Regional Agro-pesticide Index: Asia and the Pacific* and the guidelines, *Safe Handling and Application of Agro-pesticides* in various local languages.

260. The Commission expressed hope that the project on a database to be implemented shortly in the ASEAN member countries would provide the opportunity to establish a link between the pesticides commonly used and their impact on the environment. The secretariat gave its assurance that such activities would be implemented only after obtaining the formal concurrence of the respective countries.

261. The representative of Nepal stated that the activity on a database on pesticides and the environment was of interest and hoped that in the ensuing phase it would cover his country.

262. The Commission urged ARSAP to work closely with FAO, in view of the fact that that organization was actively involved in the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

263. It expressed appreciation to the Governments of France and the Netherlands, and the Commission of the European Communities, for their generous support to ARSAP to enable it to pursue its useful work.

Sustainable agricultural strategy in the least developed countries

264. The Commission was informed of the secretariat's initiative in providing assistance for undertaking in-depth studies in individual least developed countries with a view to identifying appropriate agricultural strategies and policy options. Many delegations fully endorsed the proposal prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with FAO for extensive country studies covering, among other things, land and soil resource problems, the environmental aspects of the use of pesticides and fertilizers, water resources problems relating to agricultural development, deforestation, and marine and coastal degradation, and urged the donors to provide the necessary funding for the project.

Cooperation in agricultural and rural communication

265. The Commission commended the activities in the field of agricultural and rural communication systems pursued by the secretariat. The publication of the training manual on farm broadcasting in national languages was commended for its usefulness. The Commission noted the successful outcome of the Regional Meeting on the Strengthening of Agricultural Information and Communication Systems, which had been held at Bangkok in 1991. Mention was made of the ongoing evaluation of the project on regional cooperation in farm broadcasting, which had received financial support from Japan. The representative of that country expressed the hope that the result of the evaluation would contribute to the future agricultural and rural development of the region.

Satellite crop monitoring

266. The Commission noted with appreciation the advisory services that were provided by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and funded by UNDP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the satellite crop monitoring project implemented by the secretariat. The drought early warning system promoted under the project was considered to have great potential and to be a practical example of technology transfer to countries of the region.

Research and development relating to teak

267. The Commission commended the secretariat on facilitating the exchange of valuable technical information on teak forest development through the organization of the ESCAP/FAO regional seminar on research and development relating to teak, held in China in 1991. The proposal for an Asian and Pacific network on research and development relating to teak was welcomed as being beneficial to teak-producing countries. It was suggested that the network should be established in a country that had high technical knowledge concerning teak and it could be a centre for the dissemination of genetic material of the teak plant.

Utilization of agricultural residues and other biomass

268. The Commission reiterated the importance of utilizing locally available and renewable agro-residues and other biomass as an energy source in improving the socio-economic conditions of disadvantaged rural people, and strongly urged the secretariat to continue and expand such activities in the face of the continuing depletion of forestry resources and environmental degradation.

269. The Commission was informed that, in compliance with its directives at the forty-seventh session, preparatory work was being undertaken for a regional workshop on human resources development for the utilization of agricultural residues as an energy source. A major part of the necessary funding for the purpose had already been obtained through a generous contribution from the Government of the Republic of Korea. The representative of China announced his country's willingness to host the workshop in 1993, and assured the Commission that China would extend its fullest cooperation to the secretariat in order to make the workshop a success. China would warmly welcome the participation of members and associate members in that activity.

270. The representative of Thailand reiterated his country's readiness to provide host facilities for the establishment of a pilot plant to demonstrate the gasification of rice husk for the generation of heat and electricity, and expressed the hope that supplementary financial support for the project would be available.

271. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of China and the Republic of Korea, and to UNDP, for their generous financial and technical contributions to the project activities. It requested them to continue such support and urged other donors to extend their support.

Interagency programme on rural development

272. The Commission was informed of the secretariat's activities relating to the alleviation of rural poverty through its projects on non-farm employment generation and rural employment strategies, as well as its cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the dissemination of information. It was also informed of the continued implementation of the Interagency Coordinated Plan of Action for Integrated Rural Development in the ESCAP Region. Several delegations informed the Commission of their national initiatives for the alleviation of rural poverty.

273. It appreciated the dissemination by the secretariat of information on rural poverty alleviation. Many members requested the secretariat to strengthen the inter-agency newsletter on the subject by increasing its frequency and coverage. They requested UNDP to provide additional funds for publication of the newsletter.

274. It noted the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the alleviation of rural poverty. It endorsed the recommendations of the Regional Symposium on NGO Cooperation on Rural Poverty Alleviation, held at Bangkok in December 1991, and called for early follow-up action on those recommendations. It suggested that non-governmental organizations should be involved in the process of project development from the planning to the evaluation stages. It was also suggested that a pilot project should be considered in that regard.

275. The Commission noted the ongoing inter-agency project on employment strategies for the rural poor, which promoted employment for the rural poor in Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam through the introduction of appropriate technology. It regarded the activities as beneficial to the concerned countries and strongly urged that those activities should be expanded in the future. It expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its financial support of the project.

276. The Commission commended the pilot activities undertaken by the secretariat under the ESCAP/ILO non-farm employment project, which aimed at increasing the income of the people in the rural areas by generating employment through non-farm and off-farm activities. It fully endorsed the recommendations of the ESCAP/ILO Regional Seminar on Promotion of Non-farm Employment among Rural Workers, held at Bangkok in January 1992, and urged that the pilot project should be expanded and replicated in those countries which were not participating in the project.

277. The Commission was informed of the forthcoming expert group meeting on a proposed centre on rural enterprises to be held in China. The representative of China confirmed that the meeting would be held at Beijing from 13 to 15 May 1992. Certain delegations felt that the establishment of the proposed centre should be deferred until the feasibility, as well as the financial implications, of the proposal had been considered.

Activities under the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries

278. The Commission considered that the activities implemented in the various fields of agriculture and rural development under the TCDC modality were useful, and urged the secretariat to expand such activities in the future.

279. It noted that the current Chief of the Agriculture and Rural Development Division of ESCAP would be retiring shortly, after having served the United Nations for 15 years. It recalled his valuable contribution to the members and associate members in promoting agricultural and rural development and strengthening agricultural cooperation in the region. The Commission decided to place on record its deep appreciation of his commitment to development and the outstanding services he had rendered during his term of office, and wished him all success in the future.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

280. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/831, the report by the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre, which covered the implementation of the Centre's programme in 1991. The document also included the views and recommendations of the Governing Board of the Centre at its tenth session held in January 1992. The Commission endorsed the report and expressed general satisfaction with the progress and achievements of the Centre during 1991.

281. The Commission expressed the view that CGPRT crops in the farm economy were increasing in importance as those crops were grown by nearly half of the farm population in the region and constituted the main source of their income. The recent expansion in new uses of CGPRT commodities, such as livestock feed and processed foods, had opened opportunities for economic improvement for farmers and agriculture through diversification and intensification. Moreover, as CGPRT crop-based farmers often lived in disadvantaged upland and rainfed areas, improvement in their living conditions was often necessary for alleviating rural poverty. The Commission thus affirmed the importance of CGPRT crops in rural development, food economy and sustainable and equitable development in agriculture, the rural community and the economy as a whole.

282. The Commission commended the achievements of the Centre in 1991 and suggested that it should strengthen its efforts to produce and provide concrete information and useful recommendations for the benefit of researchers, extension workers and policy makers, and eventually for the target people, namely farmers and others involved in the production, marketing and utilization of CGPRT crops. It also noted that the Centre had played an important role in identifying the socio-economic impact of CGPRT crops and in formulating and disseminating agricultural and rural development strategies to members. The Commission also noted that, in the course of the implementation of the programme in 1991, the Centre had collaborated closely with national research systems in member countries. It stressed the importance of the Centre's cooperation with regional and international research and development institutes and other international organizations in a mutually complementary manner. In that connection, the representative of FAO highlighted the collaboration of that organization with the Centre in its programme activities, specifically in setting up the Asian component of a global soybean network.

283. With regard to the major achievements of the Centre's research and development activities during 1991, the Commission was informed that the Centre had completed, or nearly completed, five projects and implemented some others. Noting the major impact of the completed projects on CGPRT crop production and the farmers, many delegations expressed satisfaction at having participated in those projects and their intention to do so more extensively. Several delegations expressed satisfaction at the remarkable achievement of the soybean yield gap analysis project and requested replication of a similar project to other countries in the region, in order to maximize its impact and benefits. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of France and Japan, and to the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) for their valuable support of the research activities.

284. Regarding the information and documentation services, the Commission noted with satisfaction that a new expanded phase of the project for the establishment of national and regional statistical databases on CGPRT crops had started in 1991 with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands. It was informed of the progress and achievements of the Centre with regard to documentation activities.

285. The Commission acknowledged with satisfaction the considerable progress and expansion of the human resources development activities of the Centre in 1991. Two workshops and two training courses had been held under the programme. The Commission was informed that a total of 77 participants from 15 countries throughout the region had attended those meetings, at which the Centre had disseminated the research findings obtained through the exchange of the knowledge and experience of participants. It was also informed that the Centre (a) had conducted a survey to identify the needs of member countries and (b) had provided on-the-job training for graduate students and local researchers.

286. The Commission was informed that the Governing Board, at its tenth session, had considered the report of the external review of the Centre which had been conducted in October and November 1991. It noted that the Governing Board had expressed appreciation of the exhaustive work of the review team and had generally endorsed the recommendation that the Centre's role, identity and status should be enhanced. The Commission requested the Centre, in considering the suggestions in the external review report, to make a renewed effort to strengthen its financial basis and, in close cooperation with the members, to approach donor agencies for that purpose.

287. The Commission was also informed of the Board's deliberations on the draft strategic plan of the Centre. Noting the views expressed by the Governing Board, it suggested that members be invited to articulate their needs regarding the Centre's programme to enable them to participate in the Centre's activities. The Commission was informed that a working meeting for that purpose was planned for mid-1992.

288. The Commission was informed of the staffing and financial situation of the Centre, including the estimated expenditure during 1991. The total expenditure in 1991 had amounted to approximately $US 1,286,000, which represented a modest increase compared with the actual expenditure in 1990. The Commission noted that the Centre was seeking three new Professional staff members for 1992, and that it had requested members and associate members to consider the provision of those experts. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of France, Japan and the Netherlands, and the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) for making expert services available. It also noted that the Governments of Indonesia and Thailand had provided expert services for research projects.

289. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the generous contributions of members and donors to the Centre's resources, including new or increased contributions from several developing countries in 1991. The following had provided financial and other assistance to the Centre in 1991: Australia, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam, CEC, UNDP and FAO. Several delegations stated that they would consider new or increased contributions. The Commission acknowledged the fact that the Centre's financial base remained weak. Several delegations stressed the need for increased contributions to the Centre's institutional costs from participating, particularly beneficiary, countries. The Commission, recalling the appeals it had made at previous sessions, urged all members and associate members to increase or make new contributions,

particularly towards the Centre's institutional costs, in line with the guidelines for the minimum levels of contribution, $US 15,000 and $US 1,000 for developing and least developed countries respectively. At the same time, the Commission urged the developed countries and donor agencies to make renewed efforts to increase their contributions to the Centre's programme resources.

Development issues and policies

290. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/832.

291. In introducing the item, the secretariat elaborated on the nature of the transition process in the developing economies of the region, particularly those economies which were in the process of recovering from war and civil strife, or switching from central planning to a market-oriented economy, or undergoing both changes simultaneously.

292. There was general consensus on the significance of the changes taking place in the transitional economies (referred to as "transitional disadvantaged economies" in Commission resolution 48/8 on problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region), as well as on the nature and magnitude of the problems facing those economies. The Commission stated that there was a need to refine the concept of transition in developing economies and to determine the nature of assistance that should be provided to those economies. On the whole, most delegations expressed appreciation for the secretariat's useful study in that new area of research. However, one delegation regretted that the document did not give adequate attention to the social problems faced by the transitional economies.

293. The delegation of China stated that the socialist economic reforms in its country, combining planned economy with market regulations, had unique characteristics and that it would be inappropriate to characterize China as a "transitional economy". Another delegation pointed out that its country, although not included in the group of transitional economies, was introducing widespread market reforms.

294. The Commission noted that the transitional economies of the ESCAP region faced at least four major tasks in dealing with the process of economic reform: (a) ensuring continued internal and external macroeconomic stabilization; (b) developing a competitive environment to replace the command economy structure and to reform the price system; (c) restructuring and reforming enterprises, both agricultural and industrial; and (d) redefining the boundaries of State intervention and public control of economic activities. In that regard, it was suggested that the liberalization process should begin in the agricultural sector and that during the period of transition, measures should be taken to ensure that excessive rents were not expropriated by a small group of speculators.

295. The Commission welcomed the introduction of various reforms in the transitional economies, especially in the areas of enterprise, price, external trade, and financial and fiscal policies; it hoped that the reforms would promote closer economic cooperation between those economies and the rest of the economies in the ESCAP region. One delegation described its country's extensive reforms in those areas and reiterated its Government's commitment to further reforms.

296. The Commission agreed that ESCAP should provide consultancy services and technical assistance to the transitional economies. One delegation urged the secretariat to consider including in its programme of work specific activities that would assist those economies, and to ensure that the revisions to the secretariat's programme of work would take into consideration the needs of those economies. In that connection, the Commission adopted resolution 48/8 on problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region.

297. The Commission welcomed the opportunity to exchange information and experience with other transitional economies. One delegation believed that assistance to the transitional economies should take the form of increased trade and investment. In that connection, another delegation urged the transitional economies to create a supportive environment for, and establish the necessary infrastructure to foster, foreign investment.

298. One delegation appealed for special assistance to those transitional economies which had direct economic links with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, while another delegation appealed for funds to alleviate the severe economic and social consequences of market reforms in the transitional economies. The secretariat was urged to give special attention in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* to the problems of those economies.

299. The Commission noted that the Chief of the Development Planning Division would be retiring shortly, and expressed appreciation for his highly valued and dedicated service to the United Nations over the years. It noted, in particular, that his contribution to the analysis and formulation of development issues and policies for the benefit of the countries in the region, and to the preparation and enhancement of the quality of the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, deserved special mention.

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

300. The Commission had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre for 1991, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/881).

301. The Director of the Centre observed that it had embarked on its fifth phase work programme, 1991-1994, under the direction of a new management board, the third APDC Management Board, constituted in September 1990. It had completed four work phases: the first in 1980-1982, the second in 1983-1984, the third in 1985-1986 and the fourth in 1987-1990.

302. The Director remarked that, in accordance with the Centre's charter, all countries and areas that were members and associate members of the Commission were eligible for membership of the Centre. Furthermore, in line with its special mandate to assist least developed countries and land-locked countries, in the past year the Centre had invited the following developing and island countries and areas to be members: Bhutan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Macau, Mongolia, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The responses of those countries and areas were awaited.

303. During 1991, the Republic of Korea had increased its contribution to the Centre by 25 per cent, from $US 80,000 to $US 100,000, and the Government of Malaysia by 10 per cent, from $US 42,000 to $US 46,200. In addition, the Government of Malaysia had pledged to increase its annual grant for the maintenance and upkeep of the Centre's building from $M 400,000 to $M 440,000, and to provide $M 1 million to upgrade the telephone system and lift, as well as to purchase a vehicle. China, in addition to its annual contribution, had pledged an allocation of ¥RMB 30,000 for hosting and organizing meetings in China.

304. The Director noted that the Centre had recorded a surplus in its operating fund amounting to $US 152,968, compared with a deficit of $US 175,455 in 1990, primarily owing to the increased earnings from advisory/consultancy services and the operation of the Centre's International House. During 1991, the UNDP share of financing for programme activities had been reduced to 42 per cent of $US 1,837,534. More than one half of the total funds for the Centre's programmes had therefore come from non-UNDP sources.

305. Some of the Centre's networks had acquired distinct features, the most outstanding of which was the Asian and Pacific Energy Planning Network (APENPLAN), which would achieve autonomous status by June 1994. The Asia-Pacific Network for Credit and Savings for the Hardcore Poor (CASHPOR), created in December 1991, would be the first network of its kind to cover a long-range integrated programme in the area

306. The delegation of the Republic of Korea pledged the continued support of its Government for the Centre and its activities.

Energy, including the Regional Energy Development Programme and the Pacific Energy Development Programme

307. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/833, E/ESCAP/834 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/835, E/ESCAP/836, E/ESCAP/847 and E/ESCAP/882.

308. It expressed satisfaction with the high quality of the documentation. Representatives of 15 members of ESCAP and one multilateral agency deliberated on the documents. In general, the Commission was in agreement with the analyses and recommendations contained therein.

309. Document E/ESCAP/833 dealt with energy policy options for responding to the threat of global warming. Many countries had been following closely the global environmental issues in various forums and recognized the impending threat of global warming. Both developed and developing members of ESCAP shared the concern about the increasing use of fossil fuels, the principal contributor to global carbon dioxide emissions. One delegation informed the Commission that in October 1990 its country had proposed a strategy to mitigate global warming and held the view that it was possible to maintain emission levels at 1990 levels after the year 2000, provided the whole world collaborated. Another delegation stressed that efforts to mitigate global warming should not be confined to energy but should be comprehensive; it recognized that that problem was of particular concern to island States, and it strongly supported cooperation in technology to address potential climate change. Another delegation called for changes in energy consumption patterns. A number of delegations claimed that their countries' share of global carbon dioxide emissions was still small and that any equitable allocation of emissions should take into account historical emissions as well as efficiency in energy use. They maintained that advanced countries should provide funding assistance to developing countries to help them reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, new and renewable energy technologies should be adopted.

310. One delegation informed the Commission that its country was adopting natural gas instead of coal, and promoting research and development in non-conventional energy such as biomass, solar and wind energy. It agreed in principle to a "no regrets" strategy, namely the implementation of all feasible energy efficiency and environmental protection measures, irrespective of global warming. Another delegation informed the Commission of an innovative approach being undertaken by the Netherlands, where utilities were required to provide funds for tree-planting, with the aim of assimilating carbon in the amount equivalent to that emitted in power generation.

311. Document E/ESCAP/834 and Corr.1 described the status of and potential for energy conservation in

small and medium-scale industries. The Commission was in complete agreement with the conclusions and recommendations contained in that document. It noted that despite the high potential for energy conservation in various sectors of the economy, particularly in the industrial sector, the adoption of energy conservation measures had been slow in the developing countries of the ESCAP region. It also noted the tendency in some developing countries to wait for assistance before initiating energy conservation measures. The Commission recognized the need for an energy conservation policy, together with other regulatory, fiscal, institutional and promotional measures to be taken at the national level. It endorsed the idea of a regional cooperating mechanism to complement and supplement national efforts through the exchange of information and experience in the area of methodology, technology and achievements in energy conservation.

312. The representative of Pakistan stated that his country should have been included among those reported in document E/ESCAP/834 as taking effective measures in energy conservation. The representative of Fiji pointed out that in the same document the household and transport sectors were given little attention.

313. In that connection, the secretariat informed the Commission that upon the initiative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the secretariat might implement a global project on energy efficiency as part of "Agenda 21" and as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992. Representatives were requested to take note of that information and convey it to their relevant agencies, which would be expected to respond to the secretariat's call for proposals at a later stage.

314. Document E/ESCAP/835 contained a report on the progress and functioning of the regional energy working groups. The Commission agreed with the secretariat that those groups would fill a need in the region for collaboration in energy activities, leading to closer coordination of energy policies, including mitigation of the environmental impact of energy development and use.

315. The Commission noted with appreciation the contributions of the participating countries to working group activities. Several of the host countries of the working groups reiterated their support and commitment to the groups. All of the groups had formulated work programme proposals for the period 1992-1996. The Commission, however, expressed concern that their contributions alone would not be sufficient to keep the working groups sustainable and therefore the continuation of funding support from UNDP and donor countries would be critical.

316. One delegation suggested that the secretariat should coordinate its energy activities with those of APEC in the field of energy.

317. The Commission noted some recommendations and proposals for future activities of the working groups. It placed great emphasis on the development of new and renewable sources of energy and called for more intensified efforts in that regard in the ESCAP region. The representative of China announced that during its current eighth five-year plan, China would implement a programme designating 100 pilot counties for rural energy construction and development. China also proposed a specific project to be submitted to funding agencies and donor countries pertaining to one of the activities of the Working Group on Rural Energy Planning and Development, on training of rural energy planners. China was also interested in TCDC exchange with other developing countries of the region in the areas of new and renewable energy technologies, including solar thermal, wind, geothermal, biomass, tidal waves, solar photovoltaic and hydropower. Another proposal mentioned by the representative of China was the establishment of a new and renewable energy centre, for which funding support was being sought.

318. The representative of the Philippines similarly called for contributions for the establishment of a geothermal technology training centre for the benefit of other developing countries considering the use of geothermal energy, which was the result of the International Workshop on Geothermal Energy Training held in November 1991. Pakistan was also seriously considering the development of geothermal energy, and called for collaboration in the conduct of feasibility studies. The representative of Sri Lanka announced that a budget had been secured to host two meetings in 1992, and assured the Commission that similar funding would be available during the period 1993-1996. The proposals and offer were noted with appreciation by the Commission.

319. The Commission also considered the reports of the two regional energy programmes funded by UNDP: document E/ESCAP/836, on the Pacific Energy Development Programme and document E/ESCAP/882, on the Regional Energy Development Programme. The Commission expressed complete satisfaction with the performance of both UNDP/ESCAP intercountry programmes, which had recently been successfully concluded. Particular mention was made of the contribution of the Senior Coordinator of REDP. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP and donor countries such as Australia, France and Japan for their financial support of the ESCAP energy programmes. It urged UNDP to extend its support to another energy programme for the region to build upon the cooperative mechanism initiated under the regional programmes in the 1990s. It also urged donor countries to continue funding the energy activities of ESCAP.

320. The representative of UNDP was in agreement with the Commission on the achievements of REDP in

establishing the network of regional energy working groups, and informed the Commission that the report of the REDP planning mission had just been distributed to Governments. The Commission was also informed that, based on the recommendations of that mission and the comments still awaited from Governments, UNDP would formulate a new regional energy programme for the fifth intercountry programming cycle.

Environment

321. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/838 and Corr.1. and E/ESCAP/839.

322. It noted that one of the main reasons for the deterioration in the environment was the fact that the region was not well developed, and stressed that economic development was essential for the solution of environmental problems. The Commission observed that economic growth and development without due regard for the integration of environmental concerns into the planning and implementation process were also a cause of the recent rapid deterioration of the environment. In that connection, the Commission was pleased to note the initiative of the secretariat in promoting the integration of environment and development in the region.

323. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress of implementation of the Declaration made at the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in October 1990, and of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, which had been endorsed by the Commission at its forty-seventh session. In particular, the Commission expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's efforts to promote regional cooperation for the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy. It therefore endorsed the views expressed in paragraphs 69-76 of document E/ESCAP/838, which attached great importance to the promotion of regional cooperation. However, the Commission stressed the need for further elaboration of those views in defining measures for implementation. It was also of the opinion that the components of the Strategy with regard to regional and subregional programme areas should be elaborated further.

324. The Commission stressed that as many countries as possible should participate in efforts towards regional cooperation as that would assist them in their capacity-building for sustainable development. However, those efforts should conform to the interests and characteristics of the developing countries, particularly with regard to their unique environmental problems and economic situation.

325. The Commission observed that a policy that was directed entirely towards economic progress and not accompanied by direct measures for poverty alleviation in the developing countries of the region would not favour protection of the environment. Another aspect of safeguarding the environment was to raise environmental consciousness among the people at all levels, and vigorous efforts should be made to achieve that. The Commission emphasized that adequate attention should be paid to the issue of close interaction between the environment and population in the context of development. It stressed that in the follow-up programmes and actions in implementation of the Strategy, the important aspects of the recommendations of the ESCAP/UNDP Workshop on Population, Environment, Resources and Sustainable Development, held in May 1991, should be included. The Commission endorsed the suggested programme areas and activities contained in paragraphs 47-68 of document E/ESCAP/838 as a framework for action in support of the Regional Strategy and Ministerial Declaration, and called for their further refinement in the light of the above comments. In particular, it called for studies related to equity, efficiency and the environment to examine existing policies, procedures and plans to promote sustainable development; the development of environmental indicators and catalytic means to foster and support grass-roots and citizen action towards sustainable development; activities for the promotion of research and dissemination of environment-related technologies; and the promotion of environmentally sound management of coastal areas in the region.

326. The Commission noted with appreciation the catalytic activities undertaken by the secretariat through a series of workshops and expert group meetings, and was in general agreement with the recommendations contained in paragraph 35 of document E/ESCAP/838 for possible action for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development. It noted the importance of macroeconomic policies for solving environmental problems, particularly with regard to natural resources accounting, and the importance of developing guidebooks and manuals on the use of economic instruments.

327. The Commission endorsed the proposal for the establishment of a regional environmental information database, which was expected to be flexible enough to accommodate the differing social, economic and development stages of ESCAP members and associate members. It was suggested that the structure and modality of the database should be studied and communicated to the countries for their assessment of how they could fulfil the requirements of the database. There was a need to identify clearly the specific items of data and their relative priority.

328. The Commission noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the secretariat concerning the establishment of a regional network of environment and economic policy research institutes for environmentally

sound and sustainable development. The suggestion was made that linkages of the regional network should be established with corresponding national and subregional networks involving various groups.

329. With regard to the working group of institutes on the marine environment and oceanographic studies, the delegation of China informed the Commission that the departments concerned in China would nominate the relevant institutes.

330. The majority of the representatives were of the opinion that the proposed regional funding mechanism should play a supplementary role to a global funding mechanism to respond to the environmental problems outside the ambit of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which was confined to financing the needs of developing countries in relation to global environmental problems. The Commission recognized that there was a need for support to address the problems of water supply and sanitation, deforestation, desertification, degradation of the coastal environment, urban-industrial pollution, hazardous wastes and poverty-related environmental degradation, which must be tackled on an urgent basis in the Asian and Pacific region. The view was expressed, however, that it would not be appropriate to draw any conclusions until after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992. The Commission therefore expressed the belief that the feasibility study being conducted jointly by ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide valuable insight into and ideas about the operational mechanism and modality of establishing the regional funding mechanism, for consideration at the appropriate time.

331. The Commission expressed appreciation for the establishment of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and was of the opinion that it constituted a meaningful process for the mobilization of the full potential of international organizations working in the region for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development.

332. It observed that a breakthrough in technology was indispensable for attaining environmentally sound and sustainable development. In that context, the development of environmentally related technologies and their transfer to developing countries were important. The Commission expressed appreciation for the offer of the Government of Japan towards that end.

333. The Commission held the view that the agencies operating at the regional and global levels should not overlap in their activities and fields of responsibility. It was basically opposed to the proliferation of new agencies, and instead supported the use of existing institutions for implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. With regard to the various issues raised in document E/ESCAP/839, the Commission, while recognizing the importance of those issues, expressed the view that the secretariat should address itself to those matters, if necessary, after the Conference and following further consideration of its outcome by the General Assembly.

334. Several delegations recognized that the tropical countries which bore the responsibility for the protection of biodiversity should also have the attached rights to utilization of the resources. In that connection, the Commission considered that the problem of right to genetic resources and the further development of those resources was an important issue for sustainable development.

335. The representative of UNDP recalled the close cooperation of UNDP and ESCAP in sponsoring the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and the support UNDP had provided in the implementation of the Regional Strategy. UNDP attached high priority to the promotion of sustainable development in the region, as reflected in the fifth intercountry programme work plan, which was being prepared; it was also looking forward to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for further guidance on its programme on the environment. The representative of UNDP informed the Commission that the theme of 1992 World Environment Day would be "Only one earth: care and share".

336. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), commending the efforts of the secretariat with regard to the identification of regional and subregional programme areas and activities in support of environmentally sound and sustainable development, pledged cooperation to members and associate members in developing targeted and costed programmes and projects. UNEP found the Inter-agency Committee to be a useful mechanism for the coordination of the relevant programmes of participating agencies at the regional level. The representative of UNEP conveyed the offer of UNEP to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP in the establishment of their environmental databases and the preparation of their reports on the state of the environment. He also expressed the interest of UNEP in cooperating with ESCAP in assisting the members and associate members in the implementation of the Regional Strategy, and "Agenda 21" of the Conference.

337. The representative of FAO, in his statement, expressed the full support of FAO for the activities of the Commission in the field of the environment, and satisfaction with the functioning of the Inter-agency Committee. He was confident that the establishment of the regional network of environment and economic policy research institutes would advance the cause of sustainable development in the region considerably.

Human resources development

338. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/837. It commended the secretariat on the excellent quality of the document and endorsed the proposals for action contained therein to support the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

339. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to human resources development as a vital aspect of integrated national development. It noted with satisfaction that the Jakarta Plan of Action, adopted by the Commission in its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, was receiving serious attention by Governments for practical implementation at the national level. That was reflected in the following activities, reported as having been undertaken by a number of Governments:

(a) Establishment of the necessary institutional mechanisms for the pursuance of an integrated approach to human resources development, as advocated in the Jakarta Plan of Action;

(b) Establishment of national inter-ministerial committees or other bodies to coordinate the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action by all concerned government agencies;

(c) Incorporation of the recommendations of the Jakarta Plan of Action in national development plans and policies;

(d) Formulation of national plans of action on human resources development;

(e) Establishment of information systems on human resources development;

(f) Mobilization of the private sector and non-governmental organizations to participate in human resources development planning, policy-making and programming;

(g) Popularization of the concept of human resources development through public awareness campaigns and mobilization of the mass media;

(h) Translation of the Jakarta Plan of Action into national languages to promote its wider dissemination to the public and to stimulate public discussion of human resources development;

(i) Preparation of policy studies on selected human resources development issues;

(j) Organization of national seminars and training courses to upgrade the capabilities of personnel in the planning and delivery of human resources development programmes.

340. The Commission was informed of the progress achieved at the regional level in the execution of the ESCAP/UNDP project on assistance in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action. Implementation of that project by ESCAP and its associate executing agencies, ILO and UNESCO, had commenced during the second half of 1990. The project was due to end in 1992.

341. The project consisted of six components. The first of those components, the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development, had provided the necessary institutional framework for overseeing the implementation of the remaining five sub-projects, which had been conceived in response to the three themes of the Jakarta Plan of Action: employment and manpower development, science and technology, and quality of life. The six components were:

(a) ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development;

(b) Effective local-level delivery of programmes related to human resources development;

(c) Small town and rural human resources development to reduce migration to large cities;

(d) Diversified skill development for women in industry;

(e) Vocational training for advanced technology;

(f) Human resources development perspectives in educational planning.

342. The Commission commended the secretariat on the useful work that had been undertaken under the above-mentioned project. It expressed appreciation to UNDP for having funded the project under the fourth intercountry programme (1987-1991). The Commission was informed that a follow-up project proposal had been submitted by ESCAP to UNDP for funding under the fifth intercountry programme (1992-1996); the project related directly to the theme of human development, one of the three areas of focus of that intercountry programme. The proposed project was aimed at: (a) enhancing the capacity of the national focal points for human resources development; (b) providing development policy makers and planners with research findings on alternative human resources development strategies; (c) upgrading the professional and management skills of public sector and non-governmental organization personnel in the planning and delivery of programmes oriented towards human resources development; (d) generating intersectoral (government, non-governmental organization and private sector) cooperation in human resources development; and (e) generating public awareness and understanding of human resources development issues. The Commission voiced support for those activities and urged UNDP to consider funding the project under the fifth intercountry programme.

343. The Commission adopted resolution 48/6 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region.

344. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the establishment of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development. The Network's main task was to coordinate the pursuance at the national and regional levels of integrated approaches to human resources development policy-making, planning and programming.

345. The Commission was informed that the Network currently comprised designated national focal points from 35 members and associate members of ESCAP, including 21 least developed and Pacific island developing countries. The majority of those national focal points were located in planning agencies, public service commissions and human resources development ministries and departments. Others were located in labour, social affairs, finance, trade, and science and technology ministries, as well as academic institutions.

346. The Commission noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Regional Meeting of ESCAP National Focal Points for Human Resources Development, held at Manila from 24 to 27 March 1992. The Meeting had been convened by ESCAP in cooperation with the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines and UNDP. The Commission welcomed the adoption by that Meeting of a resolution on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, in which UNDP was urged to continue its support. In that resolution the Meeting had requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the following:

(a) To prepare standardized procedures for use by Governments in the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

(b) To conduct a review of the status of implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action by ESCAP members and associate members;

(c) To convene an expert group meeting to re-examine the Jakarta Plan of Action with a view to refining it to ensure its continued relevance to changing conditions in the region;

(d) To refine the Jakarta Plan of Action in conformity with the findings of the above expert group meeting, for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

347. All those delegations that had designated national focal points for human resources development as participants in the ESCAP Network expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for the useful technical assistance activities that had been undertaken by the Network. Those delegations confirmed their Governments' desire for continued assistance from ESCAP through continuation of the Network's activities.

348. The delegation of Australia informed the Commission that its Government had decided to designate the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau as the country's national focal point for human resources development. The delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic expressed its Government's interest in joining the Network and benefiting from its activities.

349. The Commission emphasized the need for reliable and regular data to assess the changing situation and needs of each country in the field of human resources development. It recognized that up-to-date data on such matters as employment and manpower development, technological capabilities and social conditions were important components of a strong human resources development database. Data constraints in many countries had resulted in a lack of understanding of the interrelationships among the variables of human resources development and consequently had hindered planners from devising integrated human resources development programmes. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the ongoing work of the secretariat, funded by the Government of Japan, to conduct a survey of the quality of life in the region. The results of the survey would provide much-needed information as a basis for improved human resources development policy-making, planning and programming.

350. Several delegations reported on their countries' national programmes to improve the delivery of human resources development services. Those included activities in the fields of education and training, health, employment generation, family planning and housing. It was noted that the range and diversity of human resources development programmes that Governments were being called upon to provide were expanding. In that regard, many Governments reported on their countries' efforts to involve both the non-governmental and private sectors in human resources development programmes as a means of supplementing government initiatives.

351. The Commission took note of the preparatory work undertaken by the secretariat in the administration of the second round of the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award. It was recalled that the first Award in 1991 had been presented to the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), of the Philippines. The theme of the 1992 Award was "Human resources development aspects of drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation". The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of France for having funded the project on the Award. It was felt that the Award was a means of encouraging exemplary research and other innovative achievements in the field of human resources development in Asia and the Pacific.

352. The Commission took note of the special human resources development needs of the Pacific island developing countries and areas of the region. In that connection, one delegation pointed to the need for

ESCAP to consider strengthening the staff of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC), to enable it to provide the necessary advisory services on human resources development policy-making, planning and programming to Pacific island developing countries and areas.

353. The representative of ILO, in her statement, drew the attention of the Commission to the close association of ILO with ESCAP in the formulation and implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action. ILO had been involved in the implementation of the ESCAP/UNDP project on assistance in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action. The representative of ILO expressed the hope that the second phase of the project, under consideration by UNDP, would receive support in the fifth intercountry programme.

354. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Governments of France and Japan, as well as to UNDP, for their generous support of ESCAP activities in the field of human resources development.

Human settlements

355. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/840 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/841 and E/ESCAP/842.

356. It noted with concern that the rate of urbanization was continuing unabated and that the capacity of local authorities to manage not only urban expansion but also the necessary urban infrastructure and services in most large cities was no longer adequate; that had resulted in increased pressure on both the urban environment and the already strained shelter situation. Bold policies in that field were called for, and the Commission appreciated the initiatives suggested and the ideas contained in the documentation.

357. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the coverage and the format adopted by the secretariat in its presentation of the progress made by members and associate members in the formulation and implementation of their shelter strategies towards the year 2000. It also expressed appreciation for the extended coverage in document E/ESCAP/840/Add.1. Several delegations made a commitment to provide timely and comprehensive performance indicators to the secretariat on a biennial basis, in accordance with Commission resolution 268 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on shelter strategies towards the year 2000, and the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

358. It was noted that a primary constraint on shelter development was the prevailing shortage and high cost of land. It was necessary to identify and apply effective land-supply mechanisms which would preserve the land rights of the poor.

359. The Commission recognized the importance of community involvement through non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations at all stages of the shelter delivery process. It noted that popular participation was becoming more widespread, and that the potential contribution of the private sector was being recognized and encouraged.

360. The Commission noted with satisfaction that shelter strategies had been adopted in most countries of the region, but cautioned that that would not suffice: political commitment to implement the strategies was needed; the Commission looked forward to such decisions being taken in other countries.

361. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the preparation for the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on Urbanization.

362. The Commission endorsed the proposed structure of the Conference, which included the organization of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization and an "urban forum" immediately preceding the Ministerial Conference. The urban forum would be attended by various actors involved in urban issues: government officials, representatives of local governments, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the private sector, research and training institutes and the media.

363. The Commission noted that, in order to facilitate structured discussions among the various actors involved in the urban issues, separate meetings of each group of actors would be held immediately prior to the urban forum. The schedule would be arranged in such a manner that representatives of the various groups could join the Meeting of Senior Officials to continue discussions in the urban forum, in order that their conclusions and recommendations on the contribution of the various actors to improved urban management could be included in the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for the consideration of the Ministers.

364. It had originally been intended that the Ministerial Conference would be held at the new ESCAP conference facility in 1992; however, as that facility was still under construction, the Commission endorsed the proposal to convene the Conference in Bangkok at a convenient time closely following the forty-ninth session of the Commission, when the work on the conference facility would have been completed.

365. The subjects of urban poverty, urban productivity and urban environment and health, which were among the issues identified on the proposed agenda for the Conference, were found to be of interest and direct relevance to members and associate members. The Commission noted that a ministerial declaration and a regional programme of action were being considered for adoption at the Conference, and urged members and associate members to work towards ensuring that both would be sharply focused and contain specific and practical programmes of action.

366. The Commission noted with appreciation that some countries had already taken steps to mobilize the relevant departments and bodies to follow and participate in the preparations for the Conference. Such steps were important for the success of the Conference but even more so for the policy implementation and other follow-up activities emanating from the Conference.

367. The Commission acknowledged with gratitude the generous support for the Ministerial Conference provided by the Governments of France, Japan and the Netherlands. The contributions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, UNDP, the World Bank and ADB to the preparations for the Conference were also appreciated.

368. The Commission endorsed the need for capacity-building, as emphasized in document E/ESCAP/842, including the need for institutional rearrangement for decentralized settlement management. It appreciated the efforts of ESCAP in that field, exemplified by its role in the establishment of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET); the proposed network of research and training institutes; action research on subnational planning; promotion of rural centre planning; human resources development in the Pacific island countries; preparation of guidelines for community-based housing financing; community involvement in shelter development and improvement for the alleviation of urban poverty; improved urban environment and health; and promotion of exchanges between non-governmental and community-based organizations.

369. The Commission recognized the need for the secretariat's proposed holistic programme on capacity-building for the sustainable development and management of urban areas, with a view to strengthening the institutional and technical capabilities of national and local governments, non-governmental and community-based organizations, research and training institutes and the media in order to address urban issues. It requested UNDP to make full use of ESCAP expertise in working at the grass-roots level, and to include the programme in its fifth intercountry programming cycle.

370. The Commission commended the secretariat and members of CITYNET on the wide range of activities that had been implemented under the auspices of the Network during the past five years with UNDP support. The Commission regarded that support as an important factor in strengthening the Network. It emphasized the need to maintain the momentum generated, and urged UNDP to continue its support of the operational activities set out in the medium-term plan adopted during the Second Congress of CITYNET, held at Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia, in November 1991.

371. The Commission was pleased to note the administrative and financial arrangements for the self-reliant operation of the Network, and expressed appreciation to the city of Yokohama, Japan, for the facilities it had made available to the CITYNET secretariat. It also appreciated the ongoing initiatives to establish cooperation between ESCAP, the International Union of Local Authorities, Asian and Pacific Section (IULA/ASPAC) and CITYNET.

372. Recognizing the complexity of implementing regional programmes for capacity-building, an area in which ESCAP had been assisting the Network during the past few years, the Commission requested ESCAP to continue such assistance until the CITYNET secretariat had developed sufficient professional capacity in that regard. The Commission recommended that a cooperative and working arrangement between ESCAP and the Network should be formalized as soon as the Network had obtained consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, for which it was applying.

373. The potential for achieving mutual strengthening through a linkage between the several research and training institutes active in human settlements in the region was recognized, and the Commission supported the initiatives the secretariat had taken in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to establish a regional network of research and training institutes and to develop an inventory and directory of such institutes and their respective capabilities. It noted with appreciation that the Government of the Netherlands would consider supporting such a network.

374. The Commission noted with appreciation that an ESCAP regional training course on applicable construction technologies, hosted by the Sichuan Institute of Building Research in Chengdu, China, had just been successfully completed. Seven ESCAP members had participated in the training course.

375. The importance of implementing innovative and community-based housing finance systems for the benefit of low-income groups was recognized. The assistance of the Government of France in the preparation of guidelines in that regard was appreciated.

376. With the growing concentration of urban populations in large cities, urban planning, shelter delivery and financing were made increasingly difficult and the assistance by the Government of France to the current studies and consultations on subnational area planning was gratefully acknowledged.

Industrial and technological development

377. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/844, E/ESCAP/883 and E/ESCAP/887.

378. In deliberating on the progress of preparatory activities for the convening of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Commission expressed

appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its thorough and comprehensive activities preparatory to hosting the Meeting. It also expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the substantive and other activities undertaken, and emphasized that as the economies of the region were undergoing liberalization and other economic reforms, the Meeting was timely and would provide a unique opportunity to review and deliberate on issues of major concern, with a view to promoting and strengthening regional cooperation so as to accelerate the pace of industrial and technological development in the region.

379. The Commission endorsed the proposal that the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology be held during the period 23-29 June 1992 at Tehran. It noted that the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials would be held from 23 to 25 June 1992 and the Meeting of Ministers on 28 and 29 June 1992. It urged all countries to participate actively in the Meeting and the associated events planned in conjunction with the Meeting, including the Industrial and Technological Exhibition, to be held from 23 to 29 June 1992, and the Private Sector Symposium, on 26 June 1992.

380. In noting with appreciation the desire of several countries to participate in the Meeting at the ministerial level, the Commission also urged the members and associate members to give serious consideration to including private sector representatives in their national delegations.

381. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the generous assistance it was providing to selected least developed, island developing and market-oriented transitional economies in order to facilitate their participation in the Meeting.

382. It expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's implementation of a series of activities, as directed in its resolution 47/2 of 10 April 1991, in revising the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific. It deliberated extensively on the revised Seoul Plan of Action, which contained critical elements and guidelines for promoting industrial restructuring in economies of the region. It pointed out that the Plan of Action should be treated as a flexible document and therefore the specific recommendations it contained might require some modification to suit specific needs, depending on the level of industrial and technological development achieved at the national level.

383. The Commission adopted the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, annexed to document E/ESCAP/883, but noted that the secretariat should determine the specifics of the regional cooperation measures recommended therein, and assume the coordinating role. It stressed the need to work closely with relevant international organizations and United Nations agencies and bodies, especially UNIDO, in implementing the regional cooperation measures. It urged all donors, members and associate members to cooperate with and provide assistance to the secretariat in implementing the Plan of Action.

384. Trade, industry, investment and technology had strong linkages and therefore policies pursued at the national level should be properly synchronized in order to benefit from their synergistic effects. Some countries recommended that, as a follow-up to the Seoul Plan of Action, the secretariat should undertake an in-depth study of the relevant issues.

385. The Commission held the view that promotion of appropriate and effective industrial restructuring was basically within the purview of the national Governments and success would depend on the sustained development of their economies and the industrial sector. It pointed out, however, that increased flows of trade and investment in manufacturing, which were critical determinants in promoting industrial restructuring, were currently limited to certain subregions of Asia and the Pacific. Therefore, in order to enlarge that process at the regional level, cooperation measures should be initiated and strengthened to promote intraregional flows of trade and investment, especially through increased technical assistance, particularly to less developed economies.

386. The Commission was of the opinion that as a preparatory step in implementing the recommendations contained in the Seoul Plan of Action, economies which had not yet embarked on a concerted effort to achieve industrial restructuring should initiate action on the preparation of an integrated planning document, such as an industrial master plan. Therefore, it was suggested that individual economies should analyse and deliberate further on the Seoul Plan of Action at the national level and incorporate the outcome in their respective industrial master plans.

387. The Commission emphasized the role that the private sector had to play in facilitating industrial restructuring, and directed the secretariat to undertake other activities to that effect.

388. Some delegations directed the secretariat to undertake, as a matter of priority, activities such as entrepreneurship development, industrial and technological skills development, investment promotion, and technology transfer as follow-up activities of the Plan of Action, especially for assisting the least developed, island developing and market-oriented transitional economies. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should strengthen its activities aimed at improving the efficiency of public sector industries, the development of the private sector and the promotion of privatization measures.

389. The Commission recognized that small and medium-scale industries played an important role in the industrial restructuring process. The secretariat should therefore initiate new activities aimed at assisting

countries in promoting effective linkages both among such industries and with the large-scale industries.

390. A number of delegations further emphasized that technology upgrading and improvement of the quality of management of small and medium-scale industries through foreign direct investment, technology imports or local efforts were crucial for maintaining their competitiveness, and in some cases, even for their existence, especially in the more open and market-oriented economic environment, and emphasized the need for the implementation of appropriately designed activities in that area.

391. The Commission felt that the development and proper deployment of human resources capable of adapting to rapidly changing technological situations were crucial for industrial restructuring, strengthening and improving comparative and competitive advantages in manufacturing, and improving overall living standards. In that connection, the development and implementation of appropriate national plans and strategies, including the matching of manpower supply and demand, increasing the involvement of the private sector in training and retraining activities, as well as ensuring the greater involvement of women in industrial and technological development through skills promotion and diversification, and entrepreneurship development, were considered to be particularly urgent.

392. Noting that the least developed and island developing countries, as well as the market-oriented transitional economies, had faced several constraints in developing their industrial and technological capabilities, the Commission stressed the need for the secretariat to introduce innovative programmes in line with the recommendations contained in the Seoul Plan of Action that the investment and technology flows to those countries from the more advanced countries of the region should be improved.

393. The Commission endorsed the proposal that a regional forum for sustainable industrial development and restructuring could be constituted on an experimental basis to deal with key issues of regional concern in industrial development and restructuring. The forum could be convened late in 1992 or early in 1993, with the participation of high-level government officials, representatives of the private sector and professional experts, to discuss critical issues relating to, and work out mechanisms for, industrial restructuring. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous offer of financial assistance for the organization of the forum.

394. The Commission noted with appreciation the cooperative spirit of UNIDO, as manifested in its offer of assistance in implementing the various regional cooperation measures contained in the Seoul Plan of Action. It strongly felt that the experience of UNIDO as a global specialized agency would be highly useful in the follow-up activities to be undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat. It therefore urged that UNIDO and ESCAP should cooperate fully at all stages of implementation of the Seoul Plan of Action.

395. The Commission emphasized the critical importance of science and technology inputs, particularly endogenous technological capabilities, in improving and sustaining the level of socio-economic development in the countries of the region. It considered that the secretariat activities relating to the enhancement of national technological capabilities and institutional infrastructure, as well as the transfer of new and emerging technologies, were not only timely and useful but also assisted many developing countries in taking advantage of the dynamism of technological advancement. It expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the secretariat's programme of work in the field of science and technology, particularly with regard to projects on assessment and legal aspects of transfer of new and emerging technology, transfer and diffusion of conventional technology, development of technical consultancy services, creation of an appropriate technology climate and energy conservation.

396. Recognizing the important role that standardization, metrology and quality control played in promoting trade, investment and technology transfer, the Commission supported the implementation of appropriate TCDC activities which would assist countries of the region in strengthening or establishing their national standardization institutions and facilitating information exchange and consultations on related issues. The Commission directed the secretariat to accelerate the action required to provide an appropriate regional consultation mechanism.

397. The Commission recognized the pervasive nature of new and emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, information technology and micro-electronics, new materials, and clean and environmentally sound technologies, including energy conservation technology. It directed the secretariat to continue its efforts to implement cooperative programmes based on the TCDC concept and aimed at the development of the required technological capabilities, including human resources, in those areas. In that respect, the Commission welcomed the suggestion of China that it share its experience with other countries in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.

398. The Commission held the view that the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation through the sharing of experience and institutional facilities and dissemination of information in the field of science and technology was essential for building the technological capabilities of all countries, particularly the weaker partners. A number of delegations directed the secretariat to undertake a review of national science and technology capabilities, including institutions willing

to participate in such cooperative activities. A number of delegations stressed that the secretariat should facilitate the access of small and medium-scale enterprises to the technology market through the promotion of science and technology information flows, and the creation of data banks of commercial technologies.

399. The Commission noted the critical importance of reliable national technical consultancy services for industrial and technological development and the need for promoting appropriate training and national institutional infrastructure, exchange of useful experience and information, and provision of relevant advisory services. A regional technical consultancy development programme was emphasized as being a suitable means of ensuring better utilization of local consultants in national and regional projects. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of India for its support and cooperation in organizing the Workshop on Strengthening and Development of Engineering Design and Consultancy Services for Promotion of Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and the Regional Meeting of Directors/Heads of Consulting Firms on the Provision of Technology Management and Other Services, held at New Delhi in 1990 and 1991 respectively; the Regional Meeting had recommended the establishment of a technical consultancy development programme. The Commission noted the useful and comprehensive information on the technical consultancy development programme in Asia and the Pacific provided in document E/ESCAP/844, and generally endorsed the concepts and recommendations contained therein.

400. The Commission felt that national programmes for strengthening design and consultancy capabilities should have regional and international components, ensuring the complementarity and cost-effectiveness of approaches and fostering synergistic combinations with multiplier effects by pooling resources, skills and experience. It stressed the need for the private sector to participate fully in the development and implementation of the activities envisaged, and welcomed the role played by national consultancy firms and non-governmental organizations. It was of the opinion that the proposed technical consultancy development programme would promote investment and technology flows from more advanced to less developed countries of the region and that those two groups of countries would be represented in the proposed advisory/promotional committee of the programme.

401. The Commission, noting that the programme would be based on the concept of TCDC and would be self-sufficient in terms of the institutional support for its operation, supported the establishment of the technical consultancy development programme in Asia and the Pacific, on the understanding that an in-depth assessment of national consultancy capabilities in the region would be undertaken, as proposed, during the interim phase to facilitate the selection of an appropriate apex body. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of India for the generous offer of the Consultancy Development Centre of India to perform secretariat functions for the programme during the interim phase. It welcomed the timely and thoughtful offer of the Government of Japan to provide additional programme support.

402. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of China would be hosting an international symposium on technical consultancy services in 1993, and welcomed the invitation extended to the members and associate members to participate in, and ESCAP to assist in the organization of, the symposium.

403. The representative of the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) expressed the keen desire of the World Assembly to become an active partner in the implementation of ESCAP programmes and projects directed towards the strengthening and expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises. The World Assembly offered to collaborate with the secretariat in developing a strategy for the promotion of privately owned small and medium-sized enterprises in market-oriented transitional economies in Asia, in facilitating enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation, and in training in WASME members and associate institutions in 75 countries.

404. The representative of WASME also suggested that the secretariat might consider assisting in the formation of an Asian and Pacific association of women entrepreneurs and an Asian and Pacific confederation of associations of small and medium-sized enterprises.

405. The World Assembly offered its assistance in enlisting the wider participation of private small and medium-sized enterprises in the forthcoming Private Sector Symposium to be held at Tehran on 26 June 1992 in conjunction with the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology. It urged that the secretariat consider working more closely with non-governmental organizations in the field of industrial and technological development, specifically in the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises.

406. The Commission expressed appreciation for the generous extrabudgetary assistance provided to the industrial and technological development programme by the Governments of China, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea.

407. It noted with appreciation the significant financial assistance provided by UNDP to the secretariat in the field of industrial and technological development, especially in activities related to industrial restructuring, promoting competitiveness in manufacturing, and skills development for women in industry. It urged UNDP to give priority consideration to assisting ESCAP in the continuation and follow-up of such activities, under its fifth programming cycle.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

408. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/884 and Corr.1, the report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

409. It appreciated the excellent and substantive work undertaken by APCTT, which had benefited the participating countries. It noted that APCTT had undertaken activities under the broad categories of technology management, technology promotion and utilization, and technology information. It noted with satisfaction that the number of subscribers to *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor* had increased considerably, and that the publication was almost self-sustainable. It was noted that APCTT had responded to approximately 500 specific queries, and that *Tech Monitor* had featured over 250 selected technology offers, on the basis of which a large number of memoranda of understanding for the transfer of technology had been signed.

410. The Commission noted that, in view of the successful implementation of its programme in recent years, APCTT had been able to generate sufficient programme support resources for 1992. The main projects under implementation concerned technology transfer and management, with particular reference to clean technologies, financed by UNDP; and promotion of women's entrepreneurship, financed by the Government of the Netherlands.

411. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the First International Technology Fair and Hi-tech Seminar on Electronics, Communication and Environment Protection (TECHTRANS '91) had been held at Bangalore, India in August 1991, in collaboration with the private sector in that country. A technology exhibition and discussions on joint ventures between interested parties had also been organized at that time. The Commission also noted that, in cooperation with UNIDO and the Government of Nepal, the first expert group meeting on aspects of hydrogen technology for developing countries would be held at Kathmandu in July 1992. The Commission appreciated the generous funding support for that project by the Government of Australia.

412. The Commission was informed by the Director of the Centre that the construction of the new office building for APCTT in New Delhi was progressing well and that the Centre was expected to move to New Delhi by the third or fourth quarter of 1992. The new premises would have adequate space for APCTT activities. The Director said that the Professional staff consisted of himself and three other experts financed by UNIDO and UNDP project funds.

413. The Acting Chief of the Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Environment informed the Commission that while it was satisfying to note that the programme support available to APCTT for 1992 was adequate, it was regrettable that the institutional support situation of the Centre had reached a critical level. Although the Government of India generously supported the Centre with all local infrastructure and expenses, there was not enough financial support in convertible currency available to maintain a minimum international core staff. He informed the Commission that if the problem was not resolved during the current session through adequate financial pledging to APCTT by the members and associate members of the Commission, the Centre might have to operate without a director after 30 June 1992 and an ultimate decision on the sustainability of APCTT might have to be taken.

414. The Commission noted that the current level of institutional support was not sufficient to sustain the Centre further and therefore urged member countries to support the Centre by providing institutional support in accordance with its previous recommendations of minimum threshold contributions of $US 15,000 for the developing countries and $US 1,000 for the least developed countries of the region. One delegation suggested that if the funding situation of APCTT could not be resolved, the existing programmes could be transferred to ESCAP, Bangkok.

415. The Commission noted that, in pursuance of its recommendation at the forty-sixth session in 1990, the secretariat was launching a programme for the establishment of an endowment fund for APCTT. The fund, which was proposed to be in the amount of $US 5 million, would be a base for long-term institutional support of APCTT. The fund, once established, would be managed in accordance with United Nations rules. The Commission endorsed the proposal to initiate action with donors and participating countries towards the establishment of the fund.

416. The majority of the delegations requested the secretariat to examine innovative means of support for APCTT, including priority allocation of internal resources and programme support. Some delegations suggested redeployment of regular budget resources to the Centre.

417. The Commission approved the proposed five-year plan of APCTT and requested that detailed programmes be developed and submitted to donors for financing. It urged the donors to provide assistance in the areas covered by the plan. The Commission was of the opinion that the ongoing mechanism for the exchange of technology information project should be extended beyond 1992, since the countries needed more time to adopt the methodologies devised by the project.

418. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP, UNIDO, ADB and the Governments of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands and other donors for their programme support resources provided to APCTT.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

419. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/885, which highlighted the activities of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery project undertaken since the previous session of the Commission. The document also provided information on the plan of work for the project during its fifth phase, 1992-1996.

420. The Commission appreciated the useful contributions made by the RNAM project in policies and strategies for agricultural mechanization, design and development of appropriate machinery, local manufacture and information dissemination.

421. It noted with satisfaction the continuing efforts of RNAM in human resources development, especially in the conduct of a practical in-factory design course in Belgium, which provided a rare opportunity for engineers from the participating countries to work under the supervision of experienced design engineers. It recommended that such efforts should be continued during the fifth phase. It thanked the Belgian Administration for Development Cooperation (BADC) for its financial assistance for the course, and the Belgian Federation of Agricultural and Horticultural Equipment (UGEXPO) for the actual conduct of the course.

422. It also noted with satisfaction the Agricultural Machinery Exhibition and Symposium (Agrimach '91) held at Manila in May 1991, attended by over 100 manufacturers from 19 countries, at which 45 one-on-one discussions among manufacturers for possible joint ventures and licensing arrangements had been held. It appreciated the offer of the Government of India to host Agrimach '93 at New Delhi.

423. The Commission endorsed the work plan of RNAM as listed under the five subprogrammes in document E/ESCAP/885. It welcomed the inclusion in the project of a new subprogramme on the integration of women into agricultural mechanization activities. It recommended that that subprogramme should not be limited to post-harvest and food-processing activities but should include crop production and marketing activities, in which rural women played a significant role.

424. The Commission urged the participating countries to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Network, through study tours of manufacturers, exchange of hardware, and exhibitions, to enter into joint ventures and licensing arrangements for the co-production of agricultural machinery and thus accelerate the pace of agricultural mechanization in the region.

425. In view of the excellent implementation of the programmes of RNAM in the past, the Commission appealed to the donor countries and agencies to provide adequate financial resources for the programme activities detailed in the project document.

426. The Commission noted with appreciation the announcement of the increased contributions of China, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, and urged other countries to follow suit so that the entire institutional cost could be borne by the participating countries. It also noted that the regional office of RNAM had been relocated temporarily from Los Baños, Philippines to ESCAP headquarters to reduce institutional support costs.

427. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the generous financial and other substantive support of the Government of Japan to the RNAM project from its inception. It was noted that the Government of Japan was considering the extension of programme support to appropriate projects of RNAM. It also appreciated the contributions made by UNDP and the Governments of Australia and the Netherlands.

International trade and development finance

428. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/845, on international trade and development finance, and E/ESCAP/846, on tourism.

International trade

429. The Commission noted the increasing convergence in the macroeconomic policy approaches of the countries in the ESCAP region and the broad global consensus emerging with regard to liberalization of international trade and investment regimes. However, it expressed concern at the persistent and unabated intensification of barriers to trade, particularly the proliferation of non-tariff barriers in areas in which developing countries enjoyed a comparative advantage. The adverse impact of such trade-distorting measures was exacerbated by sluggish growth in world trade and the economic slow-down in the traditional markets of the United States and Europe. While recognizing the importance of domestic policy reforms by developing countries, the Commission noted that those reforms must be matched by efforts on the part of developed countries to reform the international trading system in order to facilitate greater market access for exports of developing countries. It noted that, despite the adverse trading environment, many developing countries continued to pursue unilateral measures to liberalize their trade policy regimes and establish outward-oriented policies.

430. The Commission emphasized that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations presented an opportunity to reverse the drift towards the adoption of short-sighted policies to protect national interests. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round was necessary for strengthening the multilateral trading system and the sustained growth of world trade. The Commission was of the opinion that the current impasse in the negotiations could be overcome only by a high degree of pragmatism and flexibility on all sides, backed

by strong political will. An early, successful and balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round which adequately took into account the interests of developing countries was essential for long-term expansion of global trade.

431. While recognizing that the prime reason for expansion of intraregional trade through regional cooperation was growing interdependence based on increasing complementarities, the Commission took note of the recent trends in the growth of regionalism and the emergence of new trading alignments in Europe, North America and Asia. It felt that strategies aimed at intensifying intraregional trade flows could lead to growth of world trade only if regional cooperation did not lead to the creation of inward-looking trading blocs.

432. With regard to the accession of Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea to the Bangkok Agreement (First Agreement on Trade Negotiations among Developing Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), the Commission took note of the progress made. In addition, the Commission was informed by the representative of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) that the volume of transactions routed through ACU had grown from 44 million Asian monetary units (AMUs) in 1976 to 2,706 million AMUs in 1991. It noted with interest that three newly admitted members of ESCAP, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, had indicated to the ACU secretariat their interest in becoming members of the Union.

433. The Commission noted that the phenomenon of liberalization of planned economies in the region had affected the economic outlook and prospects of many centrally planned economies in transition. Structural reform in such economies had to be accompanied by macroeconomic stability. In that context, the Commission felt that the development experience of some of the dynamic and outward-oriented developing economies in the region would be relevant to the transitional economies in the region, especially in the absence of historical precedents to guide liberalization measures.

434. The Commission expressed the view that technical assistance and advisory services from the secretariat could also play an important role, particularly in the provision of assistance for the development of human resources and in the establishment of institutions for trade promotion in such economies. It requested the secretariat to formulate specific programmes for that purpose.

435. The Commission recognized that trade in manufactures had been the driving force behind the growth in world merchandise trade in 1989, and noted that the average share of manufactured goods of the developed and developing members and associate members in their total exports had shown an increasing trend in the late 1980s.

436. The Commission also noted that there had been a discernible trend to relocate production sites from the newly industrializing economies to other developing economies, which had resulted in higher levels of foreign direct investment, particularly in the export-oriented manufacturing sector.

437. The Commission took note of the generalized system of preferences (GSP) schemes introduced by the developed countries to assist the export of manufactures from developing economies. It noted that those schemes had helped developing countries enhance industrialization and promote exports of manufactures, which had contributed to the adoption of outward-oriented policies. While appreciating the extension of the GSP schemes of EEC and Japan for another decade, the beneficiary countries stressed that the generalized, non-discriminatory and non-reciprocal character of GSP should be maintained. The Commission also noted the need to simplify the rules of origin under the various schemes. It was informed of the likely introduction of a new EEC GSP scheme in 1993 which would be simpler, more transparent and more predictable.

438. The Commission was informed by the delegation of the United States of America that its Government had initiated a review of the United States GSP scheme for renewal beyond July 1993 and welcomed the views of the beneficiary countries in that regard. The secretariat indicated willingness to assist the regional beneficiary countries in making a presentation on their concerns and interests to the Government of the United States.

439. The Commission recognized the crucial role played by small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries in the development of trade in manufactures, which had contributed to their economic development, although such enterprises faced numerous constraints such as limited capital, lack of management capability and inadequate technology. The Commission therefore stressed the need to promote cooperation in order to facilitate the development of small and medium-sized enterprises through investment and transfer of technology.

440. The Commission noted the progress made in the development of a regional investment information and promotion service for Asia and the Pacific aimed at facilitating the development of export-oriented industries, particularly small and medium-scale industries. The service, based on a network of business organizations and government investment promotion boards, would include the matching of inter-industrial enterprises through direct business contacts; exchange and dissemination of investment-related information; and technical assistance in project viability, investment feasibility, policies and strategies. The Commission welcomed the offer made by the Government of the Republic of Korea to develop the service, and to host an expert group meeting at Seoul in June 1992 for the establishment of the service.

441. The Commission recognized the importance of the mineral commodities sector to the economic growth and development of several countries of the Asian and Pacific region, and the vast unexploited potential for expanding intraregional trade. It therefore appreciated the multidisciplinary activities implemented by the secretariat. The Commission noted with concern that the resort to tariff and non-tariff barriers, and the recent escalation in tariffs applied to imports of value-added mineral commodities by several countries, hindered the expansion of trade in that sector. Those barriers needed to be removed in order to achieve an open trading environment conducive to improved economic efficiency and enhanced growth and development in the region.

442. The Commission took note of the recommendations that had emerged from the Seminar on Analysis of Minerals and Metals Trade in the ESCAP Region, held at Bangkok in December 1991, and felt that efforts should be pursued to support initiatives aimed at strengthening global markets, especially, whenever appropriate, by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers on mineral and metal-based products as part of the general exercise under the Uruguay Round. It also supported the provision of interdisciplinary training as well as the establishment of national and intraregional mineral information systems.

443. The delegation of the Philippines informed the Commission that, except for gold, all non-automatic licensing requirements and foreign exchange restrictions on metal in the Philippines had been lifted.

444. The secretariat was requested to convene a meeting of tea-producing and tea-exporting countries similar to the Governmental Consultative Meeting of Coffee Producers/Exporters of Asia and the Pacific organized by ESCAP and held at Bangkok in September 1991.

445. The Commission noted with satisfaction the action taken by the secretariat to implement its resolution 47/11 of 10 April 1991 on interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation. It emphasized the need for the secretariat to continue providing technical assistance to countries in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular in their adoption and application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT). In that connection, the Commission supported the efforts by the secretariat to coordinate with other regional commissions and global organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), designated to coordinate such activities, to ensure that ESCAP efforts were directed where they could be most effective.

446. The Commission welcomed the efforts being made by the secretariat to set up a trade facilitation network for developing Pacific island countries as a part of the ESCAP Regional Trade Facilitation Network, the formal establishment of which had been endorsed by the Commission at its forty-seventh session. It hoped that the umbrella project would be finalized soon so that it could be implemented without delay. The Commission noted the interest of Viet Nam in participating in trade facilitation activities so as to achieve trade efficiency.

447. The Commission welcomed the offer made by the Government of China to host the fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair at Beijing in 1994 and adopted resolution 48/10 on the subject. It emphasized that the focus of the Fair should be on technological developments and industrial restructuring in the region, in order to highlight the increasing intraregional trade complementarities emerging therefrom. It requested the members and associate members of ESCAP, and other Members of the United Nations, to extend full support to the Fair and participate in it to promote intraregional trade and technical cooperation. The Commission also requested the secretariat to organize seminars focusing on intraregional trade on that occasion.

448. While some delegations spoke in favour of continuing the work of the Trade Promotion Centre, the Commission endorsed the proposal to eliminate the "Centre" from the institutional structure of ESCAP, as discussed in document E/ESCAP/845. In commending the usefulness of the secretariat's activities in the field of trade promotion and development, the Commission requested the secretariat to ensure the continuity and strengthening of relevant activities in trade promotion, such as the effective dissemination of information through publications, including the traders' manuals and market guidebooks for Asian and Pacific countries, trade fairs and human resources development.

449. The Commission noted with appreciation the statement made by the representative of UNDP that international trade was a major element in ESCAP, receiving $US 27 million in UNDP assistance under the fourth intercountry programme, and his reference to the close collaboration with ESCAP in that respect. The Commission welcomed the information that international trade would similarly receive strong emphasis under the UNDP fifth intercountry programme, and that UNDP expected ESCAP to play an important role along with other United Nations agencies, such as UNCTAD, ITC (International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The Commission further noted the intention of UNDP to organize an intergovernmental consultation at New Delhi in August 1992 to prepare a new programme in trade for UNDP funding.

450. The Commission also heard with interest the statements made by the representatives of the International Pepper Community (IPC) and the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), and welcomed their close cooperation with ESCAP. It noted the request of IPC for ESCAP assistance in organizing an international seminar on the subject "Towards a more vibrant pepper economy" in 1993.

451. While commending the secretariat on the usefulness of the work undertaken in the field of international trade, the Commission requested donor countries and international organizations to increase their assistance to the secretariat to enable it to meet the increasing needs and priorities of the developing countries. It expressed appreciation to the Governments of Australia, China, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, as well as to UNDP and the Netherlands Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries, for their financial and technical assistance to the secretariat in the implementation of its activities. It also noted with appreciation the secretariat's close cooperation with other international organizations in the field of trade, in particular UNCTAD, ITC and the Customs Co-operation Council.

Tourism

452. The Commission noted that international tourism in Asia and the Pacific had grown rapidly in the past decade, surpassing the growth rates for tourism in other regions of the world. It reaffirmed the increasingly important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of Asian and Pacific countries, noting that tourism had become a principal source of foreign exchange for a number of countries and played a significant role in generating employment opportunities. It commended the work of the secretariat on tourism and strongly supported the ESCAP activities in that area, recognizing that they were relevant to the major development concerns of the region. The Commission suggested that the secretariat should consider enlarging its role in tourism to assist in implementing tourism projects at the country level, particularly for securing financial assistance from potential donors.

453. The Commission recognized that data on the impact of tourism on economic development were of crucial importance for the formulation of appropriate national tourism policies. It requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to assist members and associate members in that area. The Commission was pleased to note the completion of case-studies on the economic impact of tourism in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, the Philippines and Thailand. It noted that similar studies for Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka would be completed in 1992.

454. The Commission observed that in some countries, unplanned development of the tourism industry had created, directly or indirectly, certain socio-cultural and environmental problems. It requested the secretariat to intensify activities to address those problems. It noted that a study on the environmental management of mountain tourism in Nepal and a study on the environmental impact of tourism in the mountainous areas of Pakistan had been completed. It also noted that an expert group meeting on the integration of environmental considerations into coastal tourism development planning would be held in 1992. The Commission took note of the request of the representative of the Philippines to include his country in case-studies on the environmental impact of coastal tourism development. It noted with interest that the Tourism Working Group of the Government of Australia had recently completed a report on ecologically sustainable tourism development.

455. The Commission observed that, as a result of the rapid growth in tourism, the development of human resources had become a pressing need. It requested the secretariat to intensify its efforts to assist developing countries in the development of human resources in the tourism sector. It noted that an expert group meeting on tourism training would be held in 1992. The Commission welcomed the statement of the representative of the Republic of Korea that his country would be interested in hosting a tourism training workshop in 1994, to coincide with Visit Korea Year, 1994. It took note of the request of the representative of Mongolia for training in tourism.

456. The Commission noted with satisfaction the success of the Seminar on Investment and Economic Cooperation in the Tourism Sector in Developing Asian Countries of the ESCAP Region, held at Tokyo in 1991. It observed that foreign investment played an important role in tourism development in the region, and requested the secretariat to strengthen its activities in that area. It noted with interest that a study on the impact of foreign investment in the tourism sector of Australia showed that as little as 4 per cent of expenditure by tourists on a typical package tour was lost to overseas investors. That finding was considered to be of the utmost significance, since there had been some public concern about the level of foreign investment in the tourism industry, particularly in the context of leakages of profits offshore.

457. The Commission noted the important role of tourism in the economies of Pacific island countries, and requested the secretariat to intensify activities to assist those countries. It noted with satisfaction that the Seminar on the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries had been successfully held at Suva in November 1991 and that the proposed seminar on investment and economic cooperation in the tourism sector in Pacific island countries would be held in 1993. The Commission emphasized that there was great potential for developing the Mekong area as a tourist destination, and requested the secretariat to enlist the support of donor countries and multilateral funding agencies to provide technical assistance for the development of tourism in that area.

458. The Commission endorsed the future work of the secretariat, with special emphasis on the following areas: (a) the economic impact of tourism; (b) the socio-cultural and environmental impact of tourism; (c) human resources development; (d) tourism marketing; (e) promotion of tourism investment; and (f) promotion of regional and subregional cooperation in tourism

development. It suggested that the secretariat should draw up an action plan for various issues outlined in document E/ESCAP/846 and work towards the realization of the plan on a priority basis. In that connection, the Commission urged donor countries and funding agencies to increase their support and assistance to the secretariat in the implementation of tourism activities.

459. The Commission noted with interest that China had designated the year 1992 Visit China Year, and that the Republic of Korea had proclaimed the year 1994 Visit Korea Year in celebration of the six hundredth anniversary of Seoul as the capital. The Commission noted the success enjoyed by Japan in its Ten Million Programme and also took note with interest of the Holiday Village Plan which it was implementing.

460. The Commission noted the valuable cooperation extended by ILO, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Tourism Council of the South Pacific for the regional activities undertaken by ESCAP and hoped that that spirit of cooperation would be further strengthened. It expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its continued financial support of ESCAP tourism activities, and for the provision of a tourism expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis. It welcomed the statement by the representative of Japan that his country intended to continue to give the best possible assistance to ESCAP tourism activities. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for funding the seminar on the promotion of sustainable tourism development in the least developed countries of the ESCAP region, to be held in 1992.

Natural resources, including marine affairs

461. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/847, E/ESCAP/848, E/ESCAP/849, E/ESCAP/850, E/ESCAP/851 and E/ESCAP/852. After several points had been clarified by the secretariat, the Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy adopted at its sixteenth session (E/ESCAP/847).

Mineral resources

462. The Commission noted that the increase in the population of the region, combined with its continued economic and industrial growth and the large transport and other infrastructural projects planned, would translate into an increased demand for both metallic and non-metallic mineral resources and construction materials. Ascertaining the availability of those resources would be crucial. The Commission noted with satisfaction that many of the developing countries in the ESCAP region had recently initiated nationwide resource assessment programmes for the discovery and development of their mineral endowments. It urged the secretariat to continue to promote, at national and regional levels, the assessment of mineral resources in the widest sense; it emphasized the importance of development-related raw materials such as fertilizer and construction materials, and industrial and energy minerals, as well as land, which was a resource in itself.

463. The Commission acknowledged the enhanced awareness of the importance of environmental and resource management among planners and decision makers at all levels of authority in the countries of the region. Environmental impact assessment was a major component of national planning, and a tendency to implement long-term strategies was being demonstrated, aimed at achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development. It noted that, although most developed countries had enacted laws for environmental protection and possessed effective regulatory mechanisms for the enforcement of such laws, many developing countries suffered from a shortage of personnel suitably prepared for such a multisectoral range of activities. The Commission commended the secretariat on its organization of the Seminar on Environmental Management for Mining and Mineral Resource Development, held at Bangkok in September 1991, which had identified a wide range of training requirements in that field and formulated recommendations for future implementation at national and regional levels. The Commission reiterated its view that concern for the environment was essential in all aspects of mineral resources development, to ensure that such development would be sustainable in terms of economic prosperity, environmental health and social stability, and urged the secretariat to continue to promote environmental management of mining as an integral part of its work programme.

464. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work in the mineral sector, and urged the secretariat to continue to be active in that area. The Commission noted the progress made in the implementation of the UNDP-funded intercountry project on training in mineral resources development, which focused on the needs of the least developed countries in Asia; it expressed satisfaction with the project's training and advisory activities, which were concentrated on various mineral exploration techniques and metallic and non-metallic mineral commodities assessment methodologies, formulation of mineral policy and provision of models for mining legislation, including environmental regulations. It further noted that the major accomplishments of the project were: (a) the draft mining law and mineral investment agreement for Viet Nam, which had been completed in cooperation with the project on economic restructuring and international trade in mineral commodities sectors; (b) the technical assistance given to the least developed countries, such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal, as well as to Viet Nam, in

overcoming initial difficulties in developing their mining sectors; and (c) the institutional strengthening of geological and mines departments through the making of inventories of their mineral resources and the design of relevant mineral exploration and resource assessment programmes taking into account mineral development and environmental control. The Commission urged the secretariat to be continuously active in that field and to seek further financial support for the extension and expansion of those activities to other developing countries of the region.

465. The Commission commended the secretariat on its assistance to members and associate members in developing the capabilities needed to attract foreign investment in the mining industry. It noted with satisfaction that, while that work was continuing, the secretariat intended to support further the member countries' efforts to develop their mineral sectors by providing assistance in the publication of mineral investment brochures. The Commission recognized that, for such measures to be truly effective, the continued collection of geological data, as well as the compilation and management of the resulting databases, was both essential and urgent. It stressed that the ultimate goal of such activities was to provide members and associate members with an overall assessment of their mineral resources, including those on land, on continental shelves and in ocean basins. In that context, the Commission further noted that both surface- and space-derived data were essential components and should be incorporated in the comprehensive database-cum-geographic information system that the secretariat intended to establish.

466. The Commission regarded resource accounting as an essential tool in enabling Governments to reach balanced decisions on land use, and commended the secretariat on its continued promotion of the collection of the required geoscientific data. It noted with satisfaction the efforts of the secretariat to expand the importance of the geological input in land-use planning in general and in urban planning in particular, in order to preserve the environment, minimize the effects of natural hazards and ensure the sustainability of economic growth. The Government of China offered to host a seminar on urban geology to be held in mid-1993 in the coastal city of Tianjin. Funding to cover local expenses for that seminar had been secured.

467. The Commission noted that the secretariat had successfully carried out a training course in engineering geology in coastal and near-shore areas and had continued to formulate programmes for implementation in 1992-1993 related to assessment of coastal and near-shore mineral and hydrocarbon resources potential, and training in implementation of integrated national marine affairs policies under the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Commission noted with satisfaction the technical support provided by the secretariat to the UNDP-funded projects implemented by CCOP and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) during 1991.

468. The Commission expressed appreciation of the collaborative and host country support in the areas of urban geology, mineral exploration and marine affairs extended by the Governments of Australia, Canada, China, France, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as by UNDP and CCOP.

Water resources

469. The Commission expressed agreement with the current emphasis on assessment, efficient management and utilization of water resources, and promotion of conservation of water and water quality in the environmentally sound and sustainable development of water resources.

470. The Commission also expressed agreement with the views contained in the issue paper on efficient water resources management for sustainable development (E/ESCAP/849). It expressed support for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the annex to that paper for sustainable development of water resources to meet the needs of social and economic development in the countries of the ESCAP region, and in accordance with the requirements of different water uses, such as irrigation, drinking water supply, industrial water supply and hydropower generation. Economic development should be coordinated with the development of water resources and effective measures should be implemented for the exploitation, utilization, protection and management of water resources. In addition to the recommendations contained in the issue paper, a recommendation was made for the fostering of intercountry sharing of successful experience in the management of water resources as well as in policy formulation for the elaboration and strengthening of national programmes and policies on water resources. It was suggested that community-based approaches to the development, protection and management of water resources should be explored.

471. The Commission expressed support of the secretariat in its activities on the rational development, management, utilization and conservation of water resources in the region, particularly on human resources development and capacity-building, with emphasis on TCDC.

472. The Commission noted the assistance needs of the Philippines in the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at integrated development and protection of water as a resource, and the need for water management plans at national and provincial levels. It also noted the problems faced by the Russian Federation in the rehabilitation of old irrigation schemes and in dealing with salinization and waterlogging in some areas, as well as the difficulties of providing water to irrigation areas. The financing of construction and

maintenance costs of water projects in market economy conditions, the allocation of water between different users, and transboundary rivers were some other problems faced by that country. The representative of the Russian Federation suggested that ESCAP should undertake a project on preparation of a handbook on an integrated (intersectoral and multidisciplinary) approach to water resources development as a follow-up to the *Guidelines for the Preparation of National Master Water Plans* issued by the secretariat.

473. One delegation expressed the view that the question of development of water resources between neighbouring countries was most appropriately dealt with through bilateral discussions and that studies by ESCAP in that field should not be undertaken without prior consultation with the countries concerned. Another delegation, citing the lack of adequate fresh water as a major health hazard for more than one third of the world's population, suggested that endeavours should be made to help develop principles of general applicability more favourable to lower riparian States.

Natural disaster reduction

474. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's work on natural disaster reduction and in principle supported the implementation of the plan of action and recommendations contained in the issue paper (E/ESCAP/850). Some delegations stated that the plan was overly ambitious, and questioned the resource implications of its implementation. Those delegations also urged the secretariat to continue to coordinate with other organizations and agencies to avoid duplication of activities in that field.

475. The Commission noted the requirements of the members and associate members and directed the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to its activities in natural disaster reduction and, in line with the plan of action, to formulate project activities in cooperation with the other concerned United Nations agencies and regional organizations to achieve the goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Commission urged donors to provide funding for those activities. Several delegations urged the members and associate members to take appropriate action, as far as possible, to implement the recommendations and the plan of action presented by the secretariat in the annex to the issue paper, to increase the level of cooperation between members and associate members in natural disaster reduction, and to intensify their efforts in national disaster prevention and preparedness activities, since such disasters often cut across national boundaries.

476. The Commission noted with interest the recent developments in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness in some countries of the region and the action undertaken to meet the goals of the Decade, such as formulation of policies, pre-disaster assessments, disaster prevention and preparedness measures, and early warning systems, particularly with regard to water-related natural disasters. The Commission also noted that, despite all the endeavours to take preparedness measures against water-related disasters, in some countries the need to generate, install and effectively implement mitigative plans and programmes remained a development concern in both urban and rural areas. It was suggested that all Pacific countries should work in unison to achieve the goals of the Decade, encouraging exchanges of experts and expertise in order to develop a unified approach to the region's disaster management capabilities.

477. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the secretariat on water-related natural disaster reduction and the mitigation of geology-related disasters. With regard to the work undertaken by the secretariat on geological hazard-mapping, it noted with interest the activities being implemented by China in that field, particularly its readiness to contribute to cooperation on regional geological hazard-mapping. The Commission also noted with interest the International Symposium on Torrential Rain and Flood, to be organized by China and held at Huangshan from 5 to 9 October 1992.

Remote sensing and geographic information systems

478. The Commission recognized that remote sensing and related geographic information systems (GIS) technologies had become essential tools for environmental monitoring, natural disaster mitigation and sustainable natural resources management, and that the applications of such technologies had become multidisciplinary in nature. It noted that there was an ever-increasing demand for technical assistance and advisory services in the field of remote sensing and GIS by the developing members and associate members. The Commission commended the secretariat on its active efforts in regional cooperation and coordination in the new field of technology applications, carried out through its UNDP-funded Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP). The Commission regarded the Programme as a most successful regional cooperative project and its impact on the creation of awareness and subsequent development and applications of remote sensing and GIS in the ESCAP region was highly commendable. It was therefore recommended that such collaborative efforts should continue under the aegis of ESCAP with support from UNDP during its fifth programming cycle.

479. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the efficient management of RRSP and its high performance outputs. It noted that the Programme had played a successful, direct and catalytic role in promoting regional coordination and cooperation by establishing a regional network to bring about close interaction among the members and associate members. It recognized that many national programmes on remote sensing and GIS had benefited substantially from participation in a

variety of activities organized by the Programme. It further recognized that the significant contributions in cash and in kind for TCDC to the Programme by participating members and associate members, as well as the principal funding support from UNDP and other national, regional and international agencies, were essential to the Programme's success. The Commission recorded its deep appreciation for the support of UNDP and other donors.

480. The Commission reconfirmed the high priority it assigned to remote sensing and GIS, and UNDP informed the Commission that a new programme in that field had already been included, under the theme topic of "environmental technology development and dissemination and natural resource management", in its fifth programming cycle. However, the Commission expressed concern that the UNDP fifth intercountry programme might not be initiated immediately, and thus there would be a gap between the new programme activities and the ongoing activities of RRSP. The Commission considered that such a gap would be a set-back to the regional remote sensing collaboration initiated so successfully by RRSP. It therefore requested the secretariat and UNDP to make a necessary bridging arrangement to avoid any disruption and dislocation of ongoing efforts.

481. The Commission recalled its resolution 47/8 of 10 April 1991 on regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems, and the recommendations of the ESCAP Committee on Natural Resources and Energy at its sixteenth session held in September 1991. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the initiative taken by the secretariat to implement the resolution and recommendations through the redeployment of a P-4 post and the obtention of the services of a regional adviser on remote sensing and GIS. The Commission requested the secretariat fully to implement the resolution and recommendations by creating a section or unit for that purpose within the secretariat.

482. The Commission agreed that, to ensure coordinated development of space remote sensing applications in the region and to sustain such activities, a space applications programme should be initiated by the countries of the region under the aegis of ESCAP. The Commission was of the opinion that to initiate such a programme, a senior officials meeting should be held in 1992 to explore mechanisms and to make the necessary preparations for a ministerial-level meeting in 1993 formally to launch such a programme for sustainable environment and natural resource management.

483. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the meeting of the directors of the national remote sensing centres and programmes in 1993. It acknowledged the offer made by China for TCDC support through (a) the organization of a seminar on remote sensing and GIS applications to disaster monitoring, to be held in China in 1993, and (b) the provision of three to four fellowships per annum in the new phase to support long-term remote sensing and GIS education. The Commission also acknowledged the readiness of Australia to continue its support of ESCAP remote sensing activities. It noted with appreciation that Japan intended to become a full member of the Inter-governmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme, and also noted with appreciation its activities related to International Space Year in 1992.

Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

484. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/854).

485. It was informed that the work plan of CCOP for 1991 had been implemented effectively and successfully. Several institutional arrangements had been made to improve the efficiency of the CCOP Technical Secretariat, and regular consultations had been maintained with the ESCAP secretariat.

486. Programme support had continued to be provided by cooperating countries, UNDP and other organizations, which had enabled the implementation of many important projects in the areas of hydrocarbon resource assessment, offshore geophysical surveys, Quarternary geological investigations, aeromagnetic map and geotectonic map compilation, as well as an extensive training programme consisting of on-the-job and in-house training, short courses, workshops and seminars. Phase I of the first mapping project, compilation of the total sedimentary isopach map offshore East Asia, had been completed. Two SEATAR (Studies in East Asian Tectonics and Resources) transects had been published and a third was being printed. Several publications on the results of investigations had been issued during the past year.

487. The Commission was pleased that the Interim Headquarters Agreement between CCOP and Thailand had been approved by the Royal Thai Government in August 1991 and signed by the parties concerned at Bangkok in October 1991, marking a milestone in the history of CCOP that would ensure its unimpeded operation.

488. The Commission was also informed that the new organizational plan of CCOP recommended by the Interim Programme Development Committee (IPDC) had been established. New financial sources could be generated in several ways in accordance with the plan.

489. During the year, the CCOP work programme for 1992-1996 had been formulated on the basis of the recommendations of IPDC. The programme covered three sectors: energy, mineral resources and the coastal zone. The Commission noted that greater support and close cooperation would be needed from member countries, cooperating countries and international organizations to implement the programme.

490. The Commission expressed gratitude to the cooperating countries, UNDP and other organizations for the support and cooperation rendered to CCOP in the past year.

491. It noted the appreciation expressed by the member and cooperating countries and UNDP for the work undertaken by CCOP and the support provided by ESCAP. There was a strong request from the member countries that UNDP should continue its support of the CCOP work programme for 1992-1996.

Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

492. There was no documentation for review and no statement delivered by the Mekong Committee. The representative of Japan made a formal statement on the issue. There was no formal substantive discussion on the agenda item. Several other delegations indicated their interest in the item and made brief informal comments reflecting their earlier statements in the plenary.

Typhoon Committee

493. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/856).

494. It was informed that the first joint session of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones had been held at Pattaya, Thailand, from 18 to 27 February 1991, and had been a significant step towards closer regional cooperation. It was pleased to note that the Typhoon Committee had achieved considerable progress in the meteorological, hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research components of its work.

495. The Commission was informed that over the previous year the radar surveillance systems of the Committee members had been considerably improved. An international conference on reduction of flooding caused by typhoons was scheduled to be held in Japan in November 1992. The effects of tropical cyclones cut across national boundaries and therefore regional cooperation should be strengthened to mitigate the effects of typhoons. The Commission, noting the Typhoon Committee's appreciation of the work undertaken by ESCAP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on disaster reduction, and the support provided by UNDP for activities aimed at reducing losses due to typhoons, expressed its continuing support of activities aimed at reducing the effects of tropical cyclones and directed the secretariat to continue its substantive support of the work of the Typhoon Committee.

496. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Philippines for providing host facilities to the Typhoon Committee Secretariat and the services of expert staff, and to Japan for providing the services of a hydrologist, and for its funding support of the Committee's substantive activities. The Commission also thanked UNDP for its support of the Typhoon Committee, and expressed the hope that that assistance would continue. It noted with appreciation the offer of China to make whatever contribution it could to the Committee's activities for TCDC.

497. The Commission expressed appreciation to China for its willingness to host the twenty-fifth session of the Typhoon Committee in December 1992.

Population

498. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/857, E/ESCAP/858 and E/ESCAP/859.

499. In its consideration of document E/ESCAP/857, the Commission noted that significant progress had been made in addressing population issues and concerns over the past two to three decades throughout the region, with quite a number of countries approaching or reaching replacement level and, in some cases, below-replacement level, fertility. The Commission observed that, with declining fertility, increasing life expectancy, urbanization and other changes in population variables as well as in socio-economic development, a large number of countries were experiencing changes in family structure, with a general tendency away from the traditional extended family to the nuclear family. The reduction in family size and decline in the number of children per family had made the care of the elderly population and the care and education of children matters of increasing concern in every society. The Commission emphasized the importance of understanding the interrelations among changes in family patterns, culture and traditions and of the support for and contribution of the elderly population. It urged the secretariat to conduct, in close collaboration with country experts, policy-related studies aimed at developing appropriate strategies, not only to sustain the traditional family support system for the elderly but also to promote effective integration of the elderly population into the mainstream of social and economic development.

500. The Commission observed that, given the stage of knowledge of the dynamics of the family in a changing environment, it would be very useful to make a more detailed analysis of the data sets. It noted that very little work had been carried out concerning the

situation of the elderly on the basis of population census data. The sharing of experience and pooling of knowledge among the countries in the region would greatly benefit those countries facing the emerging issue of ageing populations.

501. The Commission noted with concern that although several developing countries, particularly in South Asia, had experienced some decline in fertility and mortality rates, they continued to show persistently high growth rates. In order to effect a further decline in population growth rates, as well as to enhance the quality of life, it would be necessary to integrate family planning into maternal and child health and welfare issues, and to adopt other measures, such as increasing the minimum age at marriage, birth spacing, further strengthening of universal immunization programmes and raising the contraceptive prevalence rates through family planning programmes. In that regard, the Commission noted that a suitable, high-level institutional mechanism for intersectoral coordination among various aspects of population and family welfare activities, as well as improvement in the quality of family planning outreach services, particularly in the remote rural areas and urban slums, would further strengthen the family welfare programmes.

502. The Commission observed that although a large number of countries of the region had experienced a rapid demographic transition, several other countries still regarded the high population growth rate as an important problem. In those countries where demographic goals had been achieved or were about to be achieved, there was an urgent need to formulate policies and programmes to sustain the successful achievement of demographic goals through innovative strategies and new programme directions. That would require careful and serious effort and attention by policy makers and programme managers to develop new policies and programmes in areas of family planning/maternal and child health and welfare service delivery, human resources development in the service provided, and contraceptive technologies and mix. In addition, regular monitoring of policies and programmes, as well as information, education and communications activities, needed to be strengthened to address the new directions.

503. The Commission noted that in countries striving to achieve their demographic goals through programmes, there was an urgent need to strengthen efforts to evolve a comprehensive strategy covering service delivery systems, including revitalization of outreach programmes and community involvement. Also needed was a thorough review of current population policies with regard to political commitment, cultural milieu, information, education and communications and related activities, optimum utilization of resources, improving the monitoring and evaluation systems, and feedback mechanisms for policy and programme decisions and interventions.

504. The Commission commended the secretariat on the important supportive role it had played in assisting the member Governments in many of the above areas. However, with the changing programme policies and directions, it was suggested that the secretariat should further strengthen its efforts in those areas by organizing training courses, assisting in the development of population policies and programmes, and implementing innovative programmes on operations research studies.

505. Intraregional migration had recently become an important population issue, which was of critical significance to an increasing number of countries of the region because of the impact of migration on, and consequences for, the economy and the society. The migration situation of the region had been transformed in the 1980s, with movement increasing greatly in both scale and complexity. It was therefore important to conduct a study on the implications of such movements.

506. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the quality of the technical assistance and advisory services provided by the secretariat. It stressed the need for continued and expanded technical assistance and human resources development in such fields as analysis of population census data, population policy development, family planning, management information systems and population information.

507. The Commission noted that information played a key role in the formulation of population policies and the implementation of related plans and programmes; it would continue to play a key role in fostering positive attitudes and bringing about behavioural changes with regard to other dimensions of the population issue, such as those related to the family and children.

508. The Commission recognized the necessity of interdivisional and inter-agency cooperation in population activities. In that context, it suggested that there should be close collaboration between the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as well as the other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system involved in population activities.

509. The Commission reiterated the importance it gave to the roles played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of national population programmes, as well as in the development of appropriate programmes and strategies to support the family as a basic unit of society and to ensure its vital role in national development.

510. In endorsing the report on the preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/858), the Commission expressed satisfaction with the work of the secretariat and the host country. It approved the proposed new venue and dates for the Conference, which would be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 19 to 27 August 1992. The senior officials meeting would be held from 19 to 24 August, and the

ministerial meeting on 26 and 27 August. The Commission adopted resolution 48/4 on the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992.

511. The Commission stressed the importance of the theme of the Conference, "Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century", which had been approved at its previous session. It recognized that population policies, strategies and goals were increasingly intertwined with those of the environment and natural resources, and national development; the Conference would thus be a step forward in establishing a common ground and approach between population and the environment and would help to formulate future policies for sustainable development for the region.

512. In endorsing the agenda topics prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, the Commission made the following observations:

(a) In considering the subtopic on developing more effective family planning and family health and welfare programmes, greater emphasis should be placed on not only family planning but also epidemiology and transmissible diseases;

(b) Women's role in development should be emphasized under the subtopic on policies and programmes for involving women fully in the development process;

(c) The refugee issue should be incorporated in the discussion under the subtopic on internal and international migration and its implications for socio-economic development policies.

513. With regard to the conference structure as recommended by the Preparatory Committee, the senior officials would meet in plenary session and in an informal working group. Plenary sessions would be held for the opening of the Conference and for the major topics, including the recommendations made by the pre-Conference seminars. It was intended that the working group should consider the technical issues, and its deliberations would be in English only. One delegation, however, recommended that the Conference should have interpreters for both the plenary and the working group sessions.

514. Concerning the recommendations to be considered at the Conference, the Commission noted that the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, had adopted the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development. The Call for Action comprised 55 recommendations, including demographic targets. The Commission recommended that the Fourth Conference should conduct review and appraisal of the Call for Action, as well as consider new recommendations for comprehensive population policies and programmes for the achievement of sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

515. In its consideration of document E/ESCAP/859, the Commission commended the work of the secretariat in implementing resolution 272 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on a study on the implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources. In paragraph 1 of the resolution, the Commission had called upon the Executive Secretary to conduct "an analytical study on the implications of changes in demographic situations for the various aspects of human resources development".

516. The Commission observed that the studies implemented by the secretariat in four countries were, to a certain extent, of general significance to many countries in the region. As most of the countries in the region belonged to the developing world, with similar stages of demographic transition and economic development, an investigation of the consequences of population changes in those countries would be very useful. That similarity, however, did not preclude the reality that demographic changes had a variety of complicated implications for different countries, given their diverse national characteristics.

517. The Commission noted that the findings of the studies had confirmed that demographic factors did have significant implications for human resources development. Population size, the rate of population growth, family size, the age-sex structure and the spatial distribution of population were found to be related to mortality and morbidity, educational attainment and employment. The Commission observed that some of the implications might not necessarily be similar, owing to different socio-economic contexts and government policies and actions. The Commission also noted that the findings of the country studies were preliminary and needed further improvement, and that the study on one particular country contained some exaggerations which needed correction. The final report of the studies, and the recommendations derived from them, which would first be discussed with the countries concerned, would provide a useful background for the formulation of appropriate strategies for human resources development in population.

518. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the study through the organization of a regional seminar and hoped that, to facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes, similar bilateral and multilateral activities could be initiated for joint exploration of the positive and negative implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources.

519. The Commission took note of the corrigendum to the annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.120/Corr.1) and decided to consider document E/ESCAP/876/Add.1, concerning technical cooperation activities of ESCAP funded by extrabudgetary resources and announcement of intended contributions (item 12 of the agenda), together with population issues. It noted that

the ESCAP regional advisory services on population matters had been established in 1969 with funding from UNFPA. It also noted that the Governing Council of UNDP, in its decision 91/37 of 25 June 1991, had decided to establish technical support teams and subregional teams of advisers, which would place all advisers on population and related matters from various United Nations agencies, including ESCAP, under UNFPA support to join the newly established subregional teams led by UNFPA.

520. While the Commission appreciated the technical assistance and advisory services in population matters provided by the secretariat to the countries of the region, it recognized that ESCAP would have difficulty in maintaining an effective programme of assistance because of the newly established teams led by UNFPA. It noted with concern the increasing financial constraints encountered by the secretariat in undertaking its population activities, and the gradual decrease in the number of staff members in the population programme of the secretariat. It strongly requested the donor countries and international organizations, especially UNFPA, to increase their financial support to the ESCAP secretariat.

Social development

Regional Social Development Strategy

521. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/825. It endorsed the report of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Manila from 7 to 11 October 1991, to which was annexed the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. It expressed appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for generously hosting the Ministerial Conference, and to the secretariat for its excellent preparations for and convening of the Conference.

522. The Commission emphasized that the regional Social Development Strategy provided an appropriate vehicle whereby the Commission and its members and associate members could address the urgent social issues confronting the region. It noted that, despite rapid economic development in many countries of the region, the results of growth had not had as favourable an effect on social problems as had been expected. Furthermore, many new social problems had emerged as a result of economic growth, increasing the social constraints on development. The Commission therefore urged all members and associate members to prepare national action plans for integrated social development in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Strategy, focused on the three themes of poverty eradication, distributive justice and popular participation, and within the context of the concrete situation prevailing in each country.

523. A number of delegations informed the Commission about the steps that their Governments had taken to implement the Strategy, including policy initiatives to expand conventional centrally administered programmes, as well as innovative community-based and self-help approaches to resolve specific social problems and target the most disadvantaged groups. Several delegations reported that in their countries the private sector and non-governmental organizations had been encouraged to participate in activities aimed at addressing major social problems. Other delegations referred to efforts under way to increase the provision of basic services and improve the distribution of property ownership. The delegation of one major donor country informed the Commission that its Government's international assistance agency had recently revised its policies on the basis of the guidelines provided in the Strategy.

524. In view of the increased prominence being accorded to social development throughout the region, the Commission requested the secretariat to increase its emphasis on programmes aimed at resolving critical social issues, within the framework of the Strategy. In that connection, it called on the secretariat to strengthen the interdisciplinary focus of its activities. The need was stressed for the secretariat to assign priorities to its activities in implementation of the Strategy, in view of the large number of social development issues requiring attention and the limited resources available. The Commission requested the secretariat to do everything in its power to ensure that all concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and other international organizations join in the common effort to implement the Strategy. The delegation of the Netherlands indicated its Government's interest in providing assistance for the implementation of the Strategy.

525. The representative of UNDP informed the Commission of the importance placed by UNDP on the social dimension of development. The annual *Human Development Report*, containing the human development index, was one important initiative of UNDP in that field. Human development was one of the three themes of the fifth intercountry programme (1992-1996) and UNDP would thus be directing resources to activities in that field and involving a number of concerned United Nations bodies and agencies at the regional level, including ESCAP, in the execution of those programmes.

526. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of Australia, China, Japan, the Netherlands and the Philippines, and also to UNDP and the Christian Conference of Asia, for their generous financial and technical support of the social development activities of ESCAP.

Quality of life

527. The Commission asserted that there was a need to improve the quality of life of all the people, with special consideration for the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society. It was noted that concern for the quality of life in its widest sense had moved to the forefront of international consciousness. Several delegations described the desired society as one which combined rich social capital, a comfortable and fulfilling living environment, and fairness in the distribution of rewards for productive effort. It was recognized that effective implementation of the Strategy could make an important contribution to improving the quality of life in the region.

528. The Commission commended the secretariat's continuing work in the preparation of a regional survey of the quality of life. It noted the results of the first phase, under which a methodological framework had been devised consisting of a set of major quality-of-life components, each of which would be quantitatively identified by several key indicators, as the basis upon which the survey would be conducted. The data to be collected should, wherever possible, be disaggregated by gender, age and area. It was expected that the secretariat would undertake that work as a multisectoral activity and that the results would be used by Governments in the formulation and implementation of their national action plans under the Strategy.

The family

529. The Commission noted that rapid and thoroughgoing social change was currently a global phenomenon. The process of change was having a serious impact on family structures, which were weakening in nearly all societies. Economic development processes, along with social trends, environmental changes and new forms of mass media communications, were among the factors exerting corrosive pressure on the family as a basic social institution. Large-scale refugee movements in some parts of the region were also cited as having a detrimental effect on families. It was felt that special policies, embodied in an explicit family strategy, should be developed to strengthen the family in all countries.

530. The International Year of the Family (1994) would provide an important initiative in that respect. ESCAP was requested to play a strong role in the preparations for and observance of the Year. The Government of Australia indicated its interest in hosting a regional conference in connection with the Year, and invited the secretariat to enter into consultations with the relevant agencies in Australia to determine the appropriate means of working towards the convening of such a conference.

Drug abuse and acquired immune deficiency syndrome

531. The Commission expressed concern over the rapidly growing problems of drug abuse in Asia and the Pacific. It noted that drug abuse and AIDS were closely associated in many cases in the region, and that the two problems should therefore be dealt with jointly. It was observed that large quantities of illicit drugs were available throughout the region, and that abuse of those drugs among various social groups was spreading rapidly. Several of the countries involved indicated that they were making efforts to reduce the production of illicit drugs. It had become increasingly apparent that the control of the narcotics problem was important to healthy national development. The Commission therefore expressed appreciation for the secretariat's work to assist countries in developing community-based drug abuse demand reduction programmes and to establish a regional network of agencies concerned with drug abuse demand reduction.

532. The Commission noted with concern the great danger posed by the rapid spread of AIDS in South and South-East Asia. The possibility that the problem might increase to exceed the levels currently prevailing in sub-Saharan Africa was mentioned. The secretariat's efforts to address the associated problems of drug abuse and AIDS jointly were commended as useful means of developing a comprehensive approach to the problem.

Youth

533. The Commission observed that in many countries in the region there were very high numbers of children and youth. That situation had, among other things, generated severe pressure on education systems and on the labour market. It was noted that rising crime rates in many parts of the region were related to the problems being experienced by youth, including functional illiteracy, and lack of social skills, employment skills and employment opportunities. In addition to the general scarcity of employment opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and in particular for new entrants into the labour force, a shortage of appropriate educational facilities to train youth in modern production processes was a problem in some countries.

534. The Commission considered it vital that effective ways be found for involving youth in national development processes. It was stated that youth programmes should not concentrate only on those who remained within the formal education system but should also provide for out-of-school youth. The assistance of ESCAP was requested to train youth in self-help approaches to employment generation. The secretariat's activities to promote functional literacy through peer-group training were welcomed as an innovative contribution to solving the problem. In addition, the

secretariat was requested to continue its advisory services and other activities relating to the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the rehabilitation of young offenders, as that work had proved of considerable benefit to countries of the region.

Disabled persons

535. The Commission noted that the region contained large numbers of disabled persons, whose productive capacity was inhibited by the lack of opportunities to participate effectively or fully in social and economic life. Those people were also adversely affected by lack of access to basic services, including basic education, skills training and rehabilitation facilities. While much had been accomplished during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), much remained to be done. In particular, legislation to prohibit discrimination against disabled persons in social and economic life, establishment and strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms on disability matters, and measures to ensure barrier-free environments, were required. Furthermore, the rights of disabled persons to equal access to education and employment needed to be reinforced. It was felt that the progress already made in the prevention of disability needed to be built upon and further integrated into primary health care and other programmes. The rehabilitation of disabled persons also needed strengthening in such areas as special education and vocational training.

536. The Commission believed that those goals could be furthered by the proclamation of an Asian and Pacific decade of disabled persons for the period 1993-2002, as proposed by the delegation of China. That proposal received strong support. The Commission adopted resolution 48/3 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

537. The delegation of Australia pledged $US 20,000 for the establishment of a fund for activities in connection with the Decade. The delegation of China indicated that it would also contribute to such a fund. The Commission was grateful for those concrete expressions of support.

538. The work of the secretariat in promoting self-help organizations of disabled persons and its other activities to address disability-related issues were commended. The secretariat was requested to continue to undertake work in that field and in particular to coordinate the implementation of activities related to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

Consumer protection

539. Concern was expressed over the lack of adequate consumer protection in the region. In that connection, reference was made to the need for the countries in the region to take action in compliance with the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, and the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Consumer Protection for Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in June 1990. The Commission adopted resolution 48/7 on guidelines for consumer protection. The Commission noted with appreciation the indication by the delegation of Australia that its Government would look sympathetically at a request for financial assistance for further work by the secretariat in that field.

Non-governmental organizations

540. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/853. It commended the secretariat on having prepared a useful document containing innovative proposals on cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in promoting social development. As requested by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference, the "Statement and recommendations of the NGO/Media Symposium on a Regional Social Development Strategy, Manila, 8-10 October 1991" had been annexed to the document to permit its consideration by all Governments in the region.

541. The document focused on the emergence of non-governmental organizations in Asia and the Pacific as a complement to government efforts to promote social development. It reviewed the state of relations between Governments and non-governmental organizations, and highlighted the need to create a more favourable environment for cooperation between them in the planning and implementation of social development policies, plans and programmes. It presented a series of proposals for action on means of improving government and non-governmental organization relations and thereby enhancing the planning and delivery of social services.

542. The Commission endorsed the proposals for action contained in the document and its annex. It took note of the potential role that ESCAP could play as a catalyst for promoting cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in order to enhance social development. It called on the secretariat to undertake further activities, in conformity with those proposals, to enhance the role of non-governmental organizations in social development and harmonize their relations with Governments.

Statistics and government computerization, including the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Statistics and government computerization

543. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/860 and Corr.1, on selected issues in statistics and government computerization. It also considered the section of document E/ESCAP/876/Add.1 which related to UNFPA.

544. The Commission commended document E/ESCAP/860 on its concise yet highly informative content, and useful summary of contemporary issues in statistics and government computerization facing countries in the region. It generally endorsed the proposals made in the document. It recognized the need for the development of high-quality, dynamic, user-oriented national statistical services in the region in order to assist and encourage informed decision-making, research and discussion within international organizations, Governments and communities.

545. The demand for statistical information was growing in both volume and complexity owing to factors such as the increasing sophistication of national planning processes, the emergence of new areas of concern and broad socio-economic themes, and a rapid expansion in the need for small-area statistics and disaggregated data. The Commission thus considered it essential for national statistical agencies to be in a position to respond effectively to the various needs of data users.

546. In addition to the above issues identified in the document, the Commission noted that attention should be paid to safeguarding the professional integrity of official statistical agencies, in order to guarantee the confidentiality of data collected from individuals and businesses. That would help the statistical agency to gain the respect and cooperation of the suppliers of data and to perform its functions effectively and efficiently.

547. The Commission recognized the growing importance of the improvement of national statistical capabilities in the region and stressed the catalytic role of the ESCAP secretariat in that process. That was particularly important at a time when countries were stressing sound macroeconomic management as a basis for economic adjustment and reform, as well as paying greater attention to monitoring the achievement of social goals. Countries appreciated the statistical activities of the secretariat, including regional advisory services, training courses, workshops, seminars and other technical meetings and publications. While existing modalities of technical assistance were considered valid even under changing circumstances, there was nevertheless a need to adapt specific activities to satisfy shifting priorities and requirements.

548. The Commission noted the importance of promoting efficient international statistical cooperation through proper coordination; it was noted that ensuring coherence between domestic and international standards was a means of improving international comparability. With regard to the recent initiatives of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to strengthen international statistical cooperation, and the related review of the global statistical system, the Commission was informed that the secretariat would make every effort to ensure that the interests of all ESCAP members and associate members were given due weight.

549. The Commission reaffirmed that the statistics produced by the national statistical agencies should be oriented towards the needs of the data users. The ability of the statistical services to respond to new demands for data, however, varied from country to country. A few countries had been able to design medium- and long-term plans for government statistical activities which attempted to meet the statistical needs of the future social and economic activities of their Governments. However, the majority of the national statistical offices were facing a situation in which, over the years, data collection on new topics had to be added, while the demand for disaggregated data also increased. That situation frequently occurred without any planned augmentation in the resources of the statistical agency commensurate with the growth in the workload. In order to maintain an effective user service, national statistical agencies needed to adopt flexible and imaginative approaches.

550. The Commission discussed the need for reorienting national statistical agencies away from traditional sectoral lines towards more functionally organized structures. A proper combination of subject-matter orientation and functional approach could be attempted to cope with the increasing demand for statistical data. For example, several cross-sectoral surveys could be undertaken through integrated survey design to meet different needs for statistical information.

551. As a more immediate response to pressing demands for data, many national statistical offices had employed computer technology in their efforts to produce timely data and meet some of the needs of data users engaged in forecasting and planning. Such measures were nevertheless considered insufficient in view of the rapid changes that were taking place in many developing countries, such as those relating to administrative reforms and the restructuring of the economy. There was a clear need to improve, diversify and reorient current data collection instruments, and to develop effective strategies of data processing and dissemination. In that respect, the Commission noted that many developing countries faced a crucial shortage of trained staff, particularly in the use of micro-computers, advanced data analysis, and effective user-oriented data dissemination techniques and strategies. In island developing countries and other countries where the national statistical offices were small, the lack of qualified staff in such areas as population, the environment and trade was a major concern. The Commission noted that those were some of the areas in which developing countries needed assistance from the secretariat, through, for example, training seminars and advisory services.

552. The growing demand for small-area statistics and the need for national statistical offices to respond sensibly to the proliferating demand for disaggregated data were noted by the Commission. In meeting the demand for small-area statistics, careful consideration should be given to the cost of data collection, the utility

of the information, the sample design and the reliability of the data collected.

553. The Commission recommended that national statistical offices should explore more closely the possibility of using administrative records as possible sources of small-area statistics. One country mentioned its efforts to collect data for the lowest administrative unit, the village. The statistics collected covered village facilities and some demographic and housing characteristics. In another country, a number of approaches had been used as part of the strategy of strengthening the subnational statistical system. Those included the establishment of subnational data processing centres, the development of data hierarchies and review and assessment of administrative records.

554. The Commission noted that in many countries of the region there was a need to improve the statistics required for planning and implementing economic reforms, and welcomed the secretariat's focus on improving those statistics. It noted that important work was being carried out in the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and in the implementation of phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The secretariat had been playing an important role in the revision of the SNA by incorporating regional concerns in it, and assisting countries of the region in participating in ICP. However, the Commission recognized that closely coordinated technical assistance on a much larger scale would be required to facilitate the improvement of statistics in support of economic reforms, particularly in the transitional economies. The Commission endorsed the secretariat's planned activities to help countries in those areas and expressed the hope that UNDP, along with other possible donors, such as the World Bank and ADB, would be able to provide funding support. It also hoped that the revised SNA would soon be available to assist countries, especially transitional economies, in their efforts to reorient national accounting systems. The Commission was informed of the work undertaken by FAO concerning the preparation of guidelines for economic accounts of agriculture, which took into consideration the progress in the revision of the SNA.

555. The Commission was informed of the technical cooperation activities of Japan in promoting improved utilization of the SNA in the developing countries of the region, including its past support for intercountry activities and bilateral assistance in the compilation of input-output tables. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of Japan to extend, on a case-by-case basis, such cooperation to other countries in the region according to their requests. That mode of technical assistance would no doubt help to familiarize the national accountants of the developing countries of the region with the revised SNA.

556. The Commission recognized that in order to improve comparisons of purchasing power, the participation in ICP of as many countries as possible was desirable. In some transitional economies, the existing system of economic statistics made it difficult to meet fully the requirements for participation in ICP. The Commission was informed of Japan's support for ICP in the region and its intention to implement, jointly with China, a purchasing power parity project between the two countries. It noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan was planning to provide an adviser on ICP to the ESCAP secretariat from July 1992. The availability of such advisory services on price statistics would be an important element in the secretariat's assistance to countries in ICP.

557. The Commission underscored the crucial importance of environmental statistics to the countries of the region, and to international organizations. It strongly endorsed the intercountry activities proposed by the secretariat in the area of environmental statistics and noted with appreciation the financial support provided by the Government of the Netherlands for the preparation of an operational handbook to guide the countries in the collection of key environmental variables. Further assistance, however, was required in the form of advisory services and the development of environmental accounting systems. The Commission expressed the hope that high priority would be accorded to those activities of the secretariat and urged donors to provide financial support.

558. The Commission was informed that work on environmental accounting frameworks was still at the experimental stage and required refinement. It was noted that successful collection of environmental data required the attention of specialists from several different disciplines. One country mentioned its experience with the compilation of environmental statistics and the preparation of natural resource accounts for several commodities, such as oil and wood, which had so far been treated separately from calculations of gross domestic product (GDP).

559. The Commission emphasized that the development of statistics and indicators concerning human development and poverty alleviation should receive high priority, since very few countries in the region produced regular series of social indicators. The secretariat's proposed activities aimed at assisting countries in the planning, implementation and monitoring of human development goals and policies, *inter alia*, through the preparation of guidelines for the development and use of social indicators, and a publication on social indicators for the ESCAP region. The Commission considered the activities on the development of social indicators for human development, intended for extrabudgetary funding by UNDP, highly relevant, and endorsed those activities.

560. The Commission stressed the need for effective utilization of information technology for administrative purposes and for formulating and monitoring development programmes. However, developing countries needed support and technical assistance for

promoting work on government computerization in a systematic and effective manner. The Commission noted the need for technical assistance in planning integrated government information systems, at national and sectoral levels, in establishing data centres and in developing standards. Computerization-related training through regional workshops, seminars and courses, as well as technical advisory services, was considered important for institution-building and human resources development. The Commission urged donors to support the secretariat's government computerization projects, which had been developed separately for the Asian and Pacific subregions.

561. The Commission noted that technical cooperation among the countries of the region, including TCDC, played an important role in the transfer of technical knowledge in the region and offered valuable opportunities for participants to undertake comparative and in-depth studies on methods of producing statistics. It endorsed the secretariat's proposal regarding TCDC visits for the transfer of technical information and methodology in population statistics. The Commission also welcomed the offer of the Government of Japan to consider, on a case-by-case basis, bilateral technical cooperation, including expert services, in the area of population censuses.

562. The Commission noted the renewed interest in integrating population issues in national development policies, and the consequent importance attached by countries to the improved collection, processing and dissemination of population data. Several countries described past, ongoing and future activities in the fields of population censuses, intercensal surveys, sample surveys on population change, and civil registration and vital statistics. The Commission noted with appreciation the invitation to demographers and population statistics experts to participate in an international seminar on China's 1990 population census, to be held at Beijing in October 1992. It also noted that Japan would be collaborating with the East-West Center in organizing a population census conference in Japan in May 1992.

563. The Commission noted that much had been achieved in the process of capability-building in the field of demographic statistics over the past several years. It expressed gratitude to UNFPA for its generous assistance in that regard, through country programmes, and especially through its financing of intercountry programmes executed by ESCAP. Very prominent and effective among those programmes was the UNFPA-funded regional advisory service in such fields as population censuses and surveys, data processing, demographic analysis and civil registration. The Commission emphasized the importance of the availability of those services from ESCAP in the continuing efforts of countries to improve their national statistical services. In several countries the lack of statistical capability, including the shortage of trained statisticians, would mean a reliance on technical assistance for some time to come.

564. With regard to the section of document E/ESCAP/876/Add.1 relating to UNFPA, the Commission expressed satisfaction with the quality of the regional advisory services in demographic statistics and with the arrangements under which they had been delivered to date, in direct response to requests from Governments of the region. Several delegations voiced concern at the implications of the proposed new arrangements, involving the dispersal of the ESCAP advisers to UNFPA-led subregional multidisciplinary teams of advisers. Serious concern was also expressed at the decrease in intercountry travel funds for the ESCAP regional advisers, from $US 118,000 in 1991 to $US 20,000 in 1992, and at the numerous outstanding requests by Governments that, as a consequence, could not be met. The view was expressed that the document raised fundamental issues requiring clarification, including the rationale for the decentralized approach, the choice of location for the subregional teams, and the degree of governmental consultation in those processes.

565. UNFPA was therefore urged to review the new arrangements to enable the countries to continue to benefit from the valuable statistical services provided; it was suggested that UNFPA and ESCAP should make special arrangements to ensure that needed assistance was maintained. The Commission also appealed to UNFPA to provide adequate funds to ESCAP to meet the requests listed in annex II to document E/ESCAP/876/Add.1.

566. The suggestion was made that it might be possible to reconcile the multidisciplinary team approach endorsed in principle by the Governing Council of UNDP with the many advantages of the existing system that had been cited by the Commission. It was recalled that the Governing Council, in its decision 91/37 of 25 June 1991, had not specified the exact modalities of the UNFPA team approach, and had stressed the desirability of the teams cooperating with existing regional mechanisms. The Commission noted that the current ESCAP advisers constituted in reality a multidisciplinary team in their own right, with different and complementary skills among the group which did not duplicate those of the specialized agency advisers being assigned to the three UNFPA-led subregional teams. It was therefore possible to conceive of a fourth team comprising ESCAP advisers, based as now in Bangkok, retaining a "critical mass" and the ability to interact with each other as well as with Professional staff in other disciplines, able to deliver advisory services to all regional members and associate members, and maintaining close links with the three subregional teams.

567. The Commission also noted the likely effect on the secretariat's statistical activities of the proposed dispersal of the regional advisers in demographic statistics to the subregional teams. While the exact implications were impossible to predict, they would

certainly be serious in that the advisers had provided not only extensive and valuable technical assistance to countries, as the Commission had already noted, but also inputs to many other population-related activities, including technical meetings and training courses organized by the Statistics Division and other divisions of the secretariat.

568. While noting that the topic had not been covered in the documentation prepared for the sub-item, the Commission recalled that over the past few years many members and associate members had recognized the need for a separate committee on statistics within the Commission's intergovernmental subsidiary structure. The realization of the supportive role of statistics in the themes likely to be adopted by the Commission, along with the recognition of the intrinsic need for statistics in economic and social development, combined to create a very substantial role for a regional statistical forum under the auspices of ESCAP.

569. The Commission noted with appreciation that, since its forty-seventh session, the secretariat had received bilateral support for its activities in the field of statistics from India, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Singapore. It expressed gratitude to those Governments for the provision of human or financial resources and host facilities for meetings, and to the Government of Thailand for its cooperation in hosting several study tours. The Commission also welcomed the continuing interest of the Government of Australia in the possibility of funding the long-vacant post of EPOC adviser in statistics, and looked forward to positive developments in that regard. Among the multilateral agencies, UNDP and UNFPA had provided considerable support for the secretariat's activities over the past year, while ADB had agreed in principle to provide assistance in ICP. The Commission expressed appreciation to all those donors and urged them, and others, to continue to provide the necessary support for the secretariat's statistical activities, especially in the key areas identified in the documentation prepared for the Commission.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

570. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/843. It noted that the Institute had expanded its training programmes in statistics as well as in statistical computing, and that a total of 470 participants from 33 members and associate members had attended various training courses conducted by the Institute during the period under review.

571. The Commission recognized that the capability of national statistical offices had to be upgraded continuously through training. Members and associate members requested SIAP to expand its courses in statistics and statistical computing, taking into account the new impetus in the region for economic reform, social justice and the protection of the environment. The Commission also recognized the need for training courses to be conducted on such subjects as national accounts, sampling design, forecasting techniques, statistics on human development, poverty, statistical computing, environmental statistics, and food and agricultural statistics. It also recognized the need for regular training in analysing and interpreting statistics with a view to improving the capacity of statistical offices to disseminate findings of surveys and censuses to users, and as a means of using statistics as an instrument for the monitoring and management of economic and social development programmes. The Commission stressed the importance of training in techniques of dissemination in the courses conducted by the Institute. Given that all the training needs of the countries of the region could not be met directly by the Institute, it was urged that SIAP should develop training courses geared to training trainers, as well as prepare manuals and training materials to be used by training units in national statistical offices.

572. The Commission requested the Institute to give priority to the training of statisticians from the least developed and island developing countries, and urged it to develop courses to meet the statistical needs of the transitional economies.

573. It noted the importance of making use of new developments in computer technology with regard to both hardware and software, and urged the Institute to acquaint participants with those developments in its training courses in statistical computing.

574. The Commission noted the cost-effectiveness of the country courses conducted by SIAP with UNDP support, and urged the Institute to expand that programme to meet some of the most immediate short-term needs of national statistical offices.

575. In addition, the Commission noted that there was a need to provide orientation in emerging policy-related subject areas and to develop the skills of higher-level personnel of national statistical offices. It urged SIAP to continue to expand its UNDP-funded programme of advanced courses and workshops and the series of seminars on the management of national statistical services in the 1990s which it had conducted in collaboration with the ESCAP secretariat.

576. Members and associate members expressed appreciation for the activities of SIAP, which since its establishment had contributed to enhancing national statistical capability in the region. The Commission noted that the fifth phase of the SIAP project had ended in March 1992 and urged the concerned parties to finalize the project document for the sixth phase as soon as possible, to enable the Institute to continue its work programme, which was essential for the region.

577. The Commission stressed that policy-related statistics constituted a priority which needed to be developed in the region, since it was essential to have reliable and timely data for the formulation and

monitoring of social and economic development programmes. In particular, it noted the need to monitor the progress of economic reform and of programmes geared to the alleviation of poverty. It stressed the need to develop courses and course materials with regard to environmental statistics, which was a priority subject area for the global community. In that context, the Commission strongly urged UNDP to continue its programme support of SIAP during the sixth phase.

578. The Commission requested the Institute to seek additional support for its outreach programme, which needed to be expanded if it was to satisfy the growing need for statistical training in the region. That could be done by seeking the support of other donors, such as ADB, which also appreciated the urgent need to develop statistical capability in the region.

579. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the support in cash and in kind provided to SIAP by members and associate members. Since the programme of the Institute needed to be expanded, the Commission urged members to increase their contributions to SIAP. It expressed appreciation that several countries had responded positively to previous appeals and that some of them were new contributors to SIAP.

580. The Commission expressed gratitude to the host country, Japan, for its financial and in-kind contributions to the Institute during the fifth phase, as well as the programme support it extended through the award of fellowships for training. Members and associate members expressed appreciation for the large increase in the financial contributions made by Japan during the fifth phase, as well as the increase in the number of fellowships for courses at the Institute, and in particular the award of fellowships for the new course in the analysis and interpretation of statistics. It also expressed gratitude to UNDP for its valuable assistance to SIAP during the fifth phase, which had made it possible for the Institute to continue with its outreach programme through country courses and advanced courses and workshops; those activities had had a great impact on improving statistical capability in the region. The Commission also expressed appreciation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the continuing provision of short-term lecturers on a non-reimbursable loan basis, and to various international organizations for their cooperation and assistance in the various programmes of the Institute.

Transnational corporations

581. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/861.

582. It recognized the potential contribution of transnational corporations to the social and economic development of many developing countries in the ESCAP region. It felt that, in general, there had been an appropriate analysis of the main issues identified in the document. One delegation expressed its concern with the focus and content of the document.

583. The Commission noted that while EEC, the United States and Japan were the major sources of global investment outflows, the economies within that "triad" were also the major recipients of those investment outflows. It expressed concern at the declining share of investment outflows received by developing countries and the probable negative impact of that decline on the pace of economic development within the affected countries.

584. The Commission agreed that developing countries wishing to attract foreign direct investment by transnational corporations needed to create an environment that was conducive to investment. It observed that the development of an attractive investment climate within the host country should be complemented by careful attention to: (a) the establishment of appropriate organizational and administrative structures; and (b) the development of the necessary supporting infrastructure, possibly through the participation of transnational corporations themselves.

585. Some delegations observed that the developing countries, in addition to adopting measures to attract foreign direct investment, should consider adopting less regulatory approaches to such investment and the activities of transnational corporations; trade-distorting measures such as local content requirements, for example, should not be encouraged.

586. Several delegations noted that the effective protection of intellectual property rights was an important component of the process of transfer of technology from transnational corporations within developing countries, and that that issue had not been addressed by the document.

587. The Commission stressed the need for greater regional cooperation in order to enhance the attractiveness of the region to foreign direct investment. It noted the potential for developing countries in the region to share their experience in foreign direct investment; such cooperation could, *inter alia*, improve the ability of developing countries to negotiate with transnational corporations. Concern was expressed about the special needs of the least developed countries with regard to foreign direct investment and the participation of transnational corporations.

588. The Commission expressed concern at the environmental impact of transnational corporation activities in host countries; joint action by the host developing countries and transnational corporations was needed to solve those problems. The Commission felt that transnational corporations could assist by providing resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries.

Transport and communications

589. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/862, E/ESCAP/863 and E/ESCAP/864.

590. Noting the high priority accorded to the development of transport and communications in many developing countries in the region, the Commission emphasized the need for the secretariat to continue its programme of work in that field.

591. The Commission strongly supported the continuation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, to its second phase, covering the readjusted period of 1992-1996, and the lead role of the secretariat in coordinating activities related to the Decade.

592. It expressed satisfaction with the preparatory work undertaken by the secretariat, in cooperation with the concerned international and intergovernmental organizations, for phase II of the Decade, which included the formulation of the regional action programme.

593. It noted with satisfaction the preparatory work undertaken for the second session of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications and the Meeting of Senior Government Officials in Preparation for the Meeting of Ministers, to be held at Bangkok consecutively, during the period 1-5 June 1992, to consider the regional action programme and officially launch phase II of the Decade. It stressed the importance for the success of the Decade of the active participation of the developing countries in the Meeting, in order to ensure that the priority needs of those countries were adequately covered in the regional action programme.

594. The Commission was informed that the Governments of China, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and the United States of America would send high-level delegations to the Meeting of Ministers. It was also informed that an invitation to both the Meetings would be extended to the new members and associate members of the Commission, including the Governments of four Asian republics, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

595. Some delegations suggested that the projects to be included in the regional action programme should be prioritized by the developing countries of the region and greater focus should be given to a subregional approach. The secretariat advised the Commission that the regional action programme had in fact been formulated on the basis of the inputs provided by the developing countries of the region.

596. The Commission was advised by the representative of UNDP that transport and communications had been a key focus for development in Asia and the Pacific and that UNDP had provided $US 70 million to that sector during the period 1982-1991. UNDP had been involved in the implementation of the Decade programmes during the first half of the Decade; it had participated in the mid-term review of the Decade and in the preparation of the regional action programme for phase II of the Decade; and it indicated that it would continue its support of transport and communications during phase II. However, in order to take fully into consideration the findings of the mid-term review, UNDP considered that it was in the best interests of future programme development to ensure that the views of participating Governments were fully reflected, incorporating both technical and private sector concerns. Other forms of financing should also be actively pursued, since the regional action programme would go beyond UNDP means. The Commission expressed gratitude to UNDP for its active, constructive and continued support of the development of transport and communications in the region.

597. The representatives of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) stated that those organizations would continue their close cooperation with the secretariat during phase II of the Decade.

598. The Commission considered new developments in land transport in Asia, as described in document E/ESCAP/864, and noted the fact that trade in the ESCAP region was growing at double the world rate. It also noted the increase in travel in the region for both tourism and business purposes, which in turn placed increased demands on the region's transport and communications infrastructure. A salient feature of the region's trade growth in recent years had been the steadily growing significance of intraregional trade, while trade with the rest of the world retained importance, indicating a need to improve and expand transport and communications links within the region as well as with other regions. The development and strengthening of intraregional and interregional transport and communications linkages would constitute a major objective of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, phase II (1992-1996).

599. To achieve the objectives of the Decade with regard to land transport in Asia, the Commission endorsed the integrated project on Asian land transport infrastructure development, comprising the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and facilitation of land transport projects, as proposed by the Intergovernmental Meeting of Highway and Railway Officials on Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development, held at Bangkok in December 1991. It was endorsed as a priority regional project for phase II of the Decade, with major emphasis on its implementation at the subregional level, and with careful consideration of all the related aspects by expert group and intergovernmental meetings, taking into account current and future intraregional and interregional trade levels and tourism development. Route surveys and other important action would be undertaken in

cooperation with all the parties concerned. The importance of land transport routes for efficient container transport was stressed. The Commission noted the offer to designate Pakistan Railways as a focal point for conducting feasibility studies for the Trans-Asian Railway project, provided that the necessary funds were made available.

600. The Commission noted with appreciation the decision of the Government of China to join the Trans-Asian Railway project, as China provided the major link for the northern land transport route of the integrated project (Europe-Russian Federation-Mongolia-China-South-East Asia, with a connection to the Korean peninsula). It was also noted that the experience of ASEAN in harmonization and standardization in the field of land transport would be useful in the implementation of the integrated project.

601. The Commission felt that the proposed feasibility study on connecting the rail networks of China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean peninsula was an important step for the development of the northern land transport route, and requested the secretariat to establish a working group to consider the project-related issues, including break-of-gauge problems and container and vehicle standardization.

602. In that regard, the decision made in February 1992 to reconnect rail and road networks on the Korean peninsula, as part of the South-North Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression, and Exchanges and Cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, was noted with interest and appreciation. The Commission noted the proposal that the rail connections on the Korean peninsula be completed before work was started on the interregional transport linkages.

603. The Commission stressed that the adoption of facilitation measures was fundamental for the development of land traffic in the region and adopted resolution 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, which had been drafted by the Intergovernmental Meeting of Highway and Railway Officials and forwarded to the Commission. It noted that a number of developing countries in the region were already contracting parties to the international conventions mentioned in the resolution. It also noted the statement by the delegation of China that the accession by the Taiwan Kuomintang authority to the Convention on Road Traffic (1968) and Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968) under the name of "China" was illegal and void.

604. The Commission took note of the land transport development plans and projects and related problems of China, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and of a request to the developed countries and donor agencies to support the rehabilitation and land transport development activities of the developing countries to enable them to increase transport capacity and operational efficiency.

605. The Commission expressed gratitude to the following Governments: (a) China, for hosting the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Maintenance of Locomotives and Rolling Stock in 1991 and its offer to conduct similar seminars on railway-related matters in the future; (b) France, for the provision of an expert in transport-related issues, for conducting the Seminar on Rehabilitation and Relocation of Ports in Paris in 1991, and for hosting the ninth session of the Meeting of Chief Executives of Port Authorities in Paris in 1991; (c) Japan, for the provision to the ESCAP secretariat of transport experts, for conducting seminars on land transport problems, for carrying out a study and conducting a seminar on maritime transport among the Pacific island countries, and for the offer to cooperate with ESCAP in the preparation of a regional seminar on commercial aspects of railway modernization, to be held at Tokyo in October 1992; (d) Malaysia, for the offer to share its experience and expertise in the development of land transport in the region; and (e) the Russian Federation, for its offer to make available the work at its land transport research centres, and its intention to resume hosting seminars and study tours in the country as soon as circumstances permitted. The offers of continued assistance were much appreciated.

606. The Commission took note of the request of the Government of India that the secretariat should provide appropriate assistance on issues relating to (a) best size, composition and use of its national fleet; and (b) non-conference shipping operators, those not covered by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, taking into account the changing world scenario in the field of shipping.

Women in development

607. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/865, on the integration of women's concerns into development planning, and document E/ESCAP/866, on the report on preparations for a ministerial conference on women in development. It expressed appreciation for their high quality and innovative content.

608. The Commission expressed appreciation for the generous financial support extended by the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway to the secretariat's activities in the field of women in development. It welcomed the statement made by the representative of the Government of the Netherlands that it would continue to provide support to the secretariat in its activities to assist the countries of the region in advancing the status of women.

Integration of women's concerns into development planning

609. In its deliberations on document E/ESCAP/865, the Commission emphasized the importance of integrating women's concerns into all aspects of development planning. A number of delegations referred to steps that had recently been taken in their countries to enhance the participation of women in national development through various legislative and institutional changes, as well as through the incorporation of women's concerns in the development planning process.

610. It was noted that although considerable progress had been achieved in the promulgation of equal rights legislation in many countries and areas of the region, women throughout much of the region continued to face discrimination in many respects, especially in employment and education, owing in large measure to the prevailing male-dominated cultural and traditional biases. The situation had persisted on a *de facto* basis even where *de jure* remedial action had been taken.

611. The Commission expressed the opinion that stronger intersectoral efforts were needed in connection with the integration of women's concerns into development planning, in particular with regard to strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations. Several delegations suggested that, in addition, the secretariat should endeavour to provide more specific content to the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/865. It was emphasized that, in the further elaboration of those recommendations, due attention should be given to the differing national political, cultural and other conditions prevailing in the region. It was noted that there was a need to develop women's entrepreneurial skills.

612. Recognizing the relevance of the recommendations in the context of the prevailing circumstances of women in most countries of the ESCAP region, many delegations endorsed those recommendations in general. The following specific points were raised:

Recommendation 1. Some delegations suggested that "structural inequities" would be more appropriate than "structural oppression".

Recommendation 2. One delegation suggested that national focal points for women in development should be provided with adequate budgets, in addition to facilities, personnel and other resources.

Recommendation 3. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the setting of quotas for the representation of women in legislative and cabinet positions would only serve to marginalize women. However, other delegations felt that the use of quotas for an interim period was a necessary measure towards improving women's representation in political affairs. Some delegations suggested that a positive/affirmative action plan should be developed at the national level to promote and broaden the participation of women in politics and in high-level positions.

Recommendation 6. One delegation expressed reservations regarding the setting of quotas for the provision of credit to women. It considered that a longer-term solution was necessary, including the revision of laws to ensure that family assets were controlled on an equal basis by women and men to ensure greater access of women to credit.

Recommendation 7. Some delegations did not favour subsidies for staple food, household fuel and other essential consumer goods as a means of improving the status of women. In the opinion of other delegations, while the removal of subsidies was an essential part of the broad-based structural adjustment programmes being undertaken by some countries in the region, that should be without prejudice to the provision of social safety nets. However, some other delegations expressed support for subsidizing essential consumer goods as a means of promoting the welfare of women.

Recommendation 8. It was suggested that measures should be devised to encourage the development and dissemination of appropriate technologies to reduce the housework load of women.

Recommendation 9. It was suggested that the references to the concept of health policies focused on the "conventional 'biological' approach" should be changed to "conventional procreative approach", to clarify the intent of the recommendation.

Recommendation 10. One delegation suggested that, while "effective adult education" was appropriate, "compulsory adult education", appearing in the recommendation, was not. That delegation also suggested that the following three factors should be added in recommendation 10: women must have equal access to education at all levels; women must have equal opportunities to complete their education; and the quality of education for men and women should be equal.

613. The Commission emphasized the importance of the equitable representation of women in public administration and politics, particularly at senior policy-making levels. It requested the secretariat to undertake activities aimed at enhancing the participation of women in political affairs and public administration.

614. Several delegations noted the small number of female representatives attending the current session. The Commission noted with concern that despite the target set by the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/125 of 14 December 1990, of 35 per cent for women in posts subject to geographical distribution by 1995, that target was far from being met in the ESCAP secretariat, particularly at the decision-making level. It called upon the secretariat to take urgent action to remedy that situation.

Preparations for a regional ministerial conference on women in development

615. The Government of China informed the Commission that the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-sixth session, had adopted by consensus a resolution in which it accepted the offer of China to host the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. The Commission called upon the secretariat to provide the Government of China with the necessary support in its preparations for the Conference, and noted in that regard the secretariat's preparations for a regional ministerial conference on women in development which would precede the World Conference.

616. In considering document E/ESCAP/866, the Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the regional conference in Indonesia in 1994, and endorsed the proposed date of May 1994. It also endorsed the time-frame contained in document E/ESCAP/866.

617. Regarding the proposed agenda of the conference, the Commission noted that the issues to be considered should be prioritized under three broad themes: "women in economic development", "women in social development", and "women and empowerment", as specified in document E/ESCAP/866. It was suggested that the issues of "women and development planning" and "gender disparities in education and training and in health and nutrition" should be combined under a single heading, "gender-sensitive and responsive planning". It was further suggested that the issues of "women in public life and decision-making" and "the portrayal of women in the media" should be included in the agenda and discussed under the theme, "women and empowerment". It was also recommended that "women entrepreneurship" should be included in the agenda of regional and international conferences.

618. It was suggested that the experts to be invited to the expert group meeting to be convened in preparation for the regional conference should be broadly representative of the countries in the region, in terms of the level of social and economic development and cultural background.

619. Several delegations requested the secretariat to circulate the proposed questionnaire on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, mentioned in paragraph 6 of document E/ESCAP/866, in draft form to members and associate members for comments prior to its finalization. In preparing the questionnaire, conducting a series of studies on specific issues and formulating a draft regional action plan for consideration at the conference, the secretariat was urged to make full use of the data and information available in the United Nations Statistical Office, the Division for the Advancement of Women in the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. One delegation requested that members and associate members be kept informed of any consultants to be engaged in the process.

620. With regard to the series of studies on specific issues which the secretariat intended to prepare for consideration at the regional conference, it was suggested that the issues selected for that purpose should be in line with the priorities set by the Commission on the Status of Women in its resolution 35/4. Among the issues relating to women in development stressed by various delegations as being of regional priority concern were the following: women in poverty, particularly rural women; women's health and education; violence against women; and women's legal status.

621. The Commission noted the importance of organizing a regional meeting of non-governmental organizations on women in development as a preparatory activity for the regional conference. It was emphasized that the meeting should be held well in advance of the regional conference so that the conclusions reached at the meeting could be fully conveyed to the conference. The meeting could enlist grass-roots participation in the preparations for the conference, as well as in the formulation of a draft regional plan of action for the further advancement of women in Asia and the Pacific to be considered at the conference. It was proposed that the meeting should be a regional workshop, and focus on national experience regarding the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting the advancement of women. It was suggested that the non-governmental organizations to be invited to the workshop should not be confined to those engaged in activities relating to women in development but should include relevant professional organizations, social, economic and religious organizations, particularly at the grass-roots level, and the media.

622. The Commission urged all concerned donor countries and agencies to provide adequate financial support to the secretariat in its preparatory activities for the regional conference, particularly with respect to the representation of the least developed and Pacific island developing countries. It requested all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations to provide substantive inputs to the activities related to the conference. The Commission emphasized the need for greater cooperation among donor countries and agencies in support of the conference. In that connection, it was suggested that the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) could consider supporting the work of the secretariat by convening a meeting of concerned donors.

623. The Commission requested the secretariat to take steps to ensure the fullest participation of all members and associate members, including subregional groups, in the regional conference. It welcomed the interest expressed by the representative of the Government of

the Netherlands in the possibility of providing support for the preparatory activities connected with the conference. It noted with appreciation that the Government of Australia was considering the provision of financial support for regional preparatory activities, including the facilitation of participation by representatives of the Pacific island developing countries.

Programme planning

First revision of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, including implications of the thematic programming approach

624. The Commission endorsed the first revision of the medium-term plan as contained in documents E/ESCAP/867 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

625. It noted that the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1993 was substantially different from the plan which had been endorsed by the Commission in 1990. The major factors leading to the revision of the plan was the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission and the Commission's decision to reorganize its programme of work and priorities on the basis of a thematic approach. The Commission noted that the first revision of the medium-term plan, which had been formulated on the basis of recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, held at Bangkok in January 1992, had been modified in consultation with the Programme Planning and Budget Division, United Nations Headquarters. The Commission decided that additional changes resulting from the deliberations of the Commission should be appropriately incorporated in the final draft before the ESCAP portion of the plan was presented to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its thirty-second session in May 1992.

626. The Commission supported the general approach adopted in the revised medium-term plan, and the subprogramme structure which corresponded to the subsidiary structure adopted for the Commission. It agreed that the objectives of the thematic subprogrammes and the related course of action and strategies were generally well conceived. It held the view that while all the subprogrammes were important, a dynamic approach to priority-setting among them was necessary as a basis for programme formulation and budget allocation. It also agreed that closer cooperation and effective joint programming were necessary at the inter-agency level for implementation of the proposed thematic subprogrammes.

627. A number of delegations emphasized the special place that activities concerning poverty alleviation should take in the work of the Commission in view of the magnitude and urgency of that issue in the ESCAP region. It was stated that the objectives of subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development, were appropriate and well targeted. It was suggested that under that subprogramme the Commission should adopt a dynamic approach, focusing on investment in human capital rather than social welfare concerns *per se*. That important focus had been emphasized in the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, under which the Commission was undertaking relevant programme activities. One delegation suggested that the issue of employment generation should be highlighted in the programme of work under the subprogramme on poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development.

628. With regard to the difficulties facing transitional economies,* several delegations referred to the growing role of ESCAP as a centre for exchange of information and development experience, a role which was of special interest to the new member countries. Several other delegations noted that the nature and dimension of the problems of those countries were different from those of the categories which had already been established by the General Assembly, such as least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. The Commission stated that the secretariat should make special efforts to address the unique problems of those countries through the provision of consultancies, studies and the formulation of appropriate projects, which would require additional resources. However, the existing programmes of the Commission for least developed, land-locked and island developing countries should not be affected, because any redeployment of resources away from those programmes would jeopardize the interests of the countries concerned.

629. Keeping in view development needs and the requirement for additional resources to deal with the unique problems of the transitional economies, the Commission decided that the following programmatic changes were necessary in order to accommodate their immediate needs through a request for additional resources:

Introduction, page 4

After paragraph 10 *add* the following new paragraph

10a. The growing role of ESCAP as a regional centre in the accumulation, analysis and exchange of experience among members and associate members should be taken into account, in particular concerning countries in transition to a market-oriented economy.

---

* This denomination does not imply, at this stage, recognition of a special group of countries within the United Nations system.

Annex I

Pages 6 and 7

At the end of subparagraph (m) *add* the following

to facilitate the eventual inclusion of countries undergoing the transition to a market-oriented economy in multilateral trade systems and in the regional division of labour;

Page 16, paragraph 31.42 (a)

For to assist Governments in *read* to assist Governments, including those of the transitional economies, in

Page 20

At the end of paragraph 31.114 *add* the following sentence

This concerns especially some transitional economies whose communications and transport systems are poorly incorporated in regional networks.

Page 24, title of subprogramme 6

Delete the words in brackets.

Pages 26 and 28

Move paragraph 31.95a on page 26 to page 2, following paragraph 31.5.

Move paragraph 31.100a on page 28 to page 2, following paragraph 31.95a.

630. The Commission agreed that subprogramme 2, The environment and sustainable development, should take into account suitable activities designed to enhance ESCAP capabilities in monitoring transboundary pollution as well as the movement of toxic and hazardous wastes.

631. The Commission noted with appreciation that, as directed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, the ESCAP secretariat, in consultation with ACPR, had reconsidered the issue of priority-setting among the subprogrammes in the light of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. In setting priority among the subprogrammes, the majority of ESCAP members and associate members participated in the ranking of the subprogrammes, bearing in mind the ongoing development needs of the Commission and emerging issues confronting the ESCAP region, and taking into account the Commission's strengths, capacity and regional priorities. The Commission took note of the following indicative rank order of priorities among the subprogrammes:

List of subprogrammes	*Rank order of priority*
Regional economic cooperation	1
The environment and sustainable development	2
Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development	3
Transport and communications	4
Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	5
Statistics	6

632. While recognizing the importance of priority-setting among the subprogrammes in budgetary allocation, the Commission expressed the view that priority-setting at the subprogramme level should not be applied rigidly because of the diverse and differentiated needs of the ESCAP region, and especially since the thematic approach implied coordinated and integrated work. For example, although subprogrammes such as Transport and communications, Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and Statistics fell below the simple average system of rank order, their activities were critical to the full implementation of the ESCAP programme and cut across all the other subprogrammes. The Commission considered it advisable to view the rank order of priorities in terms of the level of priority-setting. In that context, the Commission decided that the first three thematic subprogrammes should be accorded relatively high priority and the last three subprogrammes relatively low priority; however, in the longer term that order of priority might have to be re-examined in the light of additional information on regional needs and issues. The Commission also recommended the following changes:

Annex I,

Page 1, paragraph 31.3, line 1

Replace into consideration *with* based on

Page 9, paragraph 31.20: Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) should be included in the subregional groups and organizations in the ESCAP region.

Page 17, paragraph 31.43

At the end of the paragraph *add*

In assessing the impact of structural reform, the need to establish liaison with national Governments during the review and analysis stage should also be identified.

633. The Commission noted that since the ESCAP Operations Evaluation Unit had been abolished, the evaluation functions had been assigned to the Programme Coordination and Monitoring Office, but with no resources. In view of the increased functions of that Office and the fact that the thematic programme would require closer monitoring of the integrated activities, the Commission hoped that in the biennium 1992-1993 the Office could perform the functions within its current level of resources without detriment to the quality of its work. The Commission noted the secretariat's efforts to explore the possibility of additional resources for the Office in the reorganization exercise.

Biennial programme budget, 1992-1993, adopted by the General Assembly and proposed programme changes

634. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/868, E/ESCAP/869 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/870 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/871.

635. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme changes for the biennium 1992-1993 as contained in document E/ESCAP/869 and Corr.1. It noted that since the endorsement by the Commission of the programme of work, 1992-1993, important events had occurred which had resulted in substantial changes in the programme of work. In particular, the Commission noted that the deletion by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board of 12 regular budget posts which had been requested in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, had necessitated some adjustments in the programme of work and priorities.

636. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts to streamline the programme of work by reallocating resources from ineffective and marginally useful activities to priority outputs, such as those related to the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings.

637. Several delegations reiterated the importance of a fair allocation of regular budget resources to ESCAP in the light of the region's greater share of the world population, and its diversity. Some delegations requested that that view should be conveyed to the General Assembly in the context of its resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, to enable ESCAP to secure additional regular budget resources within the zero-growth budget of the United Nations. The Commission took note of the fact that, in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the secretariat had re-examined priorities at the level of outputs in the context of proposed programme changes, in order to avoid duplication and enhance complementarity. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's efforts to strengthen its cooperative work with United Nations organizations through such mechanisms as prior consultation, the established inter-agency and joint division review process, as well as through the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Commission deliberated upon the development problems of transitional economies, and recommended that activities in that area should be envisaged under the relevant programmes. The Commission noted the possibility of obtaining additional resources for that purpose from the special contingency fund set up for assistance to Asian members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

638. The Commission expressed appreciation of the ongoing efforts of the secretariat concerning the review of its publications, particularly in the light of the expected changes in the approach to its programme of work and priorities, and decided that:

(a) The secretariat should continue its efforts to improve the quality and relevance of its publications through review and evaluation;

(b) It should include in its programme of work, possibly under subprogramme 12 or other subprogrammes, activities in favour of transitional economies.

639. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the comprehensive report prepared by the secretariat on the implementation of the programme of work, 1990-1991, as presented in document E/ESCAP/871; approved the tentative calendar of meetings for 1992/93 as contained in document E/ESCAP/870 and Corr.1; and took note of document E/ESCAP/868, which contained resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

640. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/872, on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. The document comprised three sections covering the following: (a) implementation of Commission resolution 46/8 of 13 June 1990 on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries; (b) the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting of ECDC-TCDC National Focal Points, held at Seoul in October 1991; and (c) a recapitulation of issues related to the expansion of ECDC and TCDC activities.

641. In submitting the document, the secretariat drew attention to the importance of follow-up action by the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and requested the representatives of those countries to provide the secretariat with a specific list of their development requirements that could be met through ECDC and TCDC modalities with other developing countries. That would facilitate the necessary matching exercise to be carried out by the secretariat. The secretariat also requested the developing countries to inform it of the specific ECDC-TCDC activities undertaken by them in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. Donors and other members and associate members were also urged to contribute to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund to enable expansion of operational TCDC activities.

642. The Commission noted the benefits that the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries had derived from the implementation of resolution 46/8 as well as from those operational TCDC activities implemented through the utilization of the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund. In view of the large ECDC-TCDC potential in the region, the Commission emphasized the need for ESCAP to expand operational ECDC-TCDC activities of interest to members and associate members, in particular to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. The Commission noted with appreciation the countries' reiteration of their strong support for TCDC activities for the promotion of collective self-reliance through the implementation of mutually beneficial ECDC and TCDC activities. Greater emphasis should continue to be accorded to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It further noted the view that ECDC and TCDC activities should be promoted within the framework of the needs and characteristics of the region. The Commission also emphasized the need for more active and effective measures and increased investment of material, financial and other resources on the part of the participating developing countries themselves, so that the full potential of TCDC could be realized for their benefit.

643. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous financial contributions of the Governments of China, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund. It urged other donors, members and associate members of ESCAP to contribute to the fund so as to expand the operational TCDC activities in the region. In that regard, the representative of the Netherlands stated that his Government's support of, and contribution to, the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, with special focus on the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, was based on its conviction that TCDC would contribute towards greater South-South cooperation.

644. Some delegations stated that although they had not contributed to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, they had, within the framework of their bilateral programmes, utilized substantial funds from their national budgets as well as their country indicative planning figures, not only to finance the local costs of operational TCDC activities implemented by them for the benefit of other developing countries, with particular emphasis on the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, but also to provide fellowships for group training courses, study tours and observation visits upon request. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the statement of the representative of Thailand that, within the framework of its international cooperation programme, Thailand would be formulating a short-term TCDC country programme for the benefit of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and another cooperation programme for Bhutan, Maldives and Mongolia. It also welcomed the statement of the representative of Indonesia regarding that country's plan for the fiscal year 1992/93 to conduct training programmes in such sectors as self-propelling growth schemes, agriculture, family planning, public works, social welfare, health, information, manpower, industry and telecommunications, within its bilateral TCDC programme for developing countries from within as well as outside the Asian and Pacific region.

645. The Commission noted the suggestion that, with a view to making operational TCDC activities more effective, an evaluation of the implementation activities should be prepared by the participants as well as the hosting and sponsoring organizations.

646. The Commission noted the successful outcome of the TCDC programming exercise in food and agriculture, hosted by the Government of the Philippines in 1991 with the assistance of UNDP, and the programming exercise in the development of the coconut industry hosted by the Government of Indonesia in March 1992 in cooperation with APCC and UNDP. It noted with appreciation the renewed offer of Thailand to host, on a joint basis with ESCAP, a sectoral programming exercise to develop operational TCDC activities.

647. The Commission endorsed the expanded catalytic efforts of the secretariat in the promotion of ECDC-TCDC activities, particularly operational TCDC activities in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It, however, urged the secretariat to exert further efforts, particularly to enhance the availability of information on TCDC potential and opportunities for the benefit of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. In that regard, the Commission endorsed the proposal to conduct a TCDC survey on the needs of those countries, to be carried out by the secretariat with a view to matching such needs with the capacities of other developing countries. The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries were urged to expedite

the submission of the list of their needs to the secretariat so that it could match their needs with the capacities of interested members and associate members.

648. The Commission noted with appreciation the holding of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting of ECDC-TCDC National Focal Points, with the financial assistance of the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Government of the Republic of Korea, at Seoul in October 1991. It endorsed the recommendation of the Meeting on the strengthening of the work and effectiveness of ECDC-TCDC national focal points. It also noted the recommendation that meetings of TCDC national focal points should be convened on a biannual and self-financed basis to discuss issues of common interest, review progress and formulate specific ECDC-TCDC programmes.

649. The Commission noted with appreciation the efforts of APCC and IPC in promoting TCDC operational activities among their members within the framework of their respective work programmes. It noted with satisfaction the close cooperation between ESCAP and those two Communities, as well the cooperation between ESCAP and other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in promoting and supporting ECDC-TCDC activities in the region.

Special problems faced by the Pacific island countries: the Commission's activities in the Pacific

650. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/873 and Corr.1. It took note of the several special barriers to development unique to Pacific island countries, such as smallness of land area, geographical fragmentation and isolation, great vulnerability to natural disasters, and lack of human and natural resources. Such disadvantages had severely constrained domestic efforts to promote social and economic development, including improvement of the local technological base. The Commission was concerned that the acute shortage of technically skilled human resources and the small scale of the markets in island economies had rendered even more difficult the smooth transfer and adaptive absorption of new technologies for enhancement of productivity. The need for technology intelligence services and training was endorsed by the Commission. In that connection, an intercountry approach was emphasized, to supplement national arrangements as well as to take advantage of economies of scale and economic diversity.

651. The Commission had an important role to play in supporting, as appropriate, social and economic development in the Pacific. The Commission welcomed the consensus regarding the establishment of a separate special body on island developing countries. It also recommended that the secretariat subprogramme on the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in the programme of work should be given high priority.

652. The Commission expressed great satisfaction at the high level of technical assistance activities sustained during 1991 by EPOC in Vanuatu, despite ongoing human resources constraints. It commended EPOC on its assistance to regional and other international organizations. The Commission took note of the need to strengthen EPOC. Many delegations indicated their endorsement of, and appealed for the Commission's support for, the redeployment, within existing secretariat resources, of three secretariat Professional staff members from ESCAP headquarters with expertise in economic policy management, social development, and trade and market development.

653. The Commission expressed concern at the recent decline in technical assistance activities for the benefit of Pacific island countries from the secretariat. The secretariat was strongly urged to take action to reverse that trend. In that context, the Commission noted the long-standing concern of Pacific island countries for increased representation of their nationals on the Professional staff of the secretariat. That would provide the secretariat with a better understanding and appreciation of the unique development problems facing those disadvantaged economies. It further noted the reiteration of several issues of concern raised by Pacific island countries in their joint introductory statement at an informal consultative meeting with the Executive Secretary and his senior colleagues.

654. The Commission expressed much appreciation to all donor countries and agencies that had provided assistance in cash or in kind for work on Pacific island countries. It took note of the useful contribution through the UNDP-funded short-term consultancy services, which had come to an end in 1991. UNDP was urged to support a proposed subregional project on economic adjustments and reforms during the current funding cycle. The Commission noted with gratification the provision to EPOC of financial assistance or the services of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis from Australia, France, Japan and New Zealand. It welcomed the announcement by France of its provision of a replacement expert, and by Australia of possible funding of the post of statistical adviser. Donor countries and agencies were urged to give support for the services of a social development adviser. More generally, several delegations stressed the importance of ECDC-TCDC, and indicated the various areas in which technical assistance had been provided to Pacific island countries under their national ECDC and TCDC modalities. The Commission took note of the announced willingness of those Governments to maintain or increase such cooperative assistance to Pacific island countries. The Commission was informed by one delegation that special provisions had been made for cooperation with those countries under its national ECDC-TCDC arrangement.

655. Several delegations expressed concern at delays in receiving documentation for the Commission session, which had made a thorough examination of the problems and issues of interest to them more difficult. In addition, it was indicated that the secretariat should make a greater effort to publicize the services available from ESCAP. It was also pointed out that work should be implemented to ensure that the policy options and recommendations arising from earlier secretariat studies and technical assistance activities were properly followed up and assessed.

656. The Commission was highly gratified at the continued successful implementation of its resolution 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Commission's activities in the Pacific. It was noted that the establishment of the Pacific Trust Fund pursuant to the resolution had facilitated the attendance of Pacific island countries at the annual session. It had also contributed to greater interest and participation in Commission activities on the part of Pacific island countries. The Commission noted with deep appreciation the pledges of financial support for the Fund from the Governments of Australia, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Republic of Korea. In that context, the Commission appealed to all member and associate member Governments to provide, or continue to provide, financial assistance to the Pacific Trust Fund so as to build up the necessary reserves and transform it into a self-supporting endowment fund.

657. The Commission adopted resolution 48/9 on strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries.

Special problems faced by the least developed countries, including report on the progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

658. The Commission had before it the following: *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1991* (ST/ESCAP/1095) which, *inter alia*, dealt with the overall macroeconomic performance of the least developed countries and the Pacific island developing countries (part one) and the challenges of macroeconomic management and trade policy reforms (part two); the report on the secretariat's activities in support of the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (E/ESCAP/874); and the report on progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions 46/7 on promotion of foreign investment in least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific and 47/4 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (E/ESCAP/875).

659. The Commission noted with concern the continued deterioration in the socio-economic conditions of the least developed countries in the ESCAP region, in contrast to the overall dynamism of the region. The vulnerability of that group of countries to external circumstances stemmed mainly from their chronic structural weakness and fragile economic base. Moreover, the impact of the Persian Gulf crisis in the second half of 1990 had added to the growing list of adverse external factors, including the decline in international prices for major export products and frequent natural disasters. The adverse effects on the balance of payments of those least developed countries were felt not only through a decline in remittances from overseas workers but also through cut-backs in exports.

660. The Commission noted that, with the addition of Cambodia and Solomon Islands to the list of least developed countries, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 on the report of the Committee for Development Planning: criteria for identifying the least developed countries, the number of the region's least developed countries had increased from 11 to 13. The Commission called for a corresponding increase in external assistance from the international community to help those countries meet their development needs.

661. The Commission urged that, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the secretariat should, in collaboration with UNCTAD and UNDP, undertake the necessary preparations urgently for the organization of cluster meetings between the least developed countries and all other countries concerned in order to improve and strengthen cooperation arrangements at the regional and subregional levels. The secretariat was also urged to continue to give increased attention to the needs and problems of the least developed countries as part of its ongoing programme of work and to contribute to the follow-up process of the Programme of Action.

662. The Commission noted that among the failures of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries was the inability of donors to achieve the target of 0.15 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) of official development assistance (ODA) flows to the least developed countries; although a number of donors had either reached or surpassed the target during the past decade, the ODA/GNP ratio on average remained around 0.09 per cent. At the same time, the external resource requirements of least developed countries continued to rise along with the rapid escalation of debt-service ratios, constituting a major hindrance to the countries' efforts to adjust and reactivate their economies.

663. The Commission noted with concern that nearly two years had passed since the adoption in September 1990 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, without any significant improvement in the ODA flows to those countries. It was hoped that the flexible "menu" approach for the disbursement, as contained in

paragraph 23 of the Programme of Action, would be actively pursued by the donor countries so as to fully complement the efforts of the least developed countries. The international community was also urged to take concrete action to honour the commitments in the Programme of Action by increasing the capital flow into the least developed countries, reducing their debt burden and providing them more opportunities for access to international markets. In that regard, the representative of a developed country informed the Commission that the ODA/GNP ratio in his Government's ODA disbursement was approaching 0.2 per cent.

664. The Commission noted that the Programme of Action, while highlighting new policy thrusts for least developed countries, had emphasized the need for the mobilization and effective use of domestic savings. Accordingly, the Governments of many least developed countries had assigned high priority to the mobilization of domestic resources in their development policies and measures. However, those efforts remained inadequate and the least developed countries were urged to increase their savings and fiscal efforts.

665. The Commission agreed that the creation of two separate special bodies, one for the least developed and land-locked developing countries and the other for the island developing countries, as part of the changes in its intergovernmental subsidiary structure, would enable ESCAP to give increased attention to the least developed countries.

666. The Commission noted with concern that the secretariat was not able to fully implement Commission resolution 46/7 of 13 June 1990 on the promotion of foreign investment in the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific, mainly owing to the lack of funds. They urged the secretariat to take urgent action to solicit the necessary funding for the full implementation of the resolution as early as possible. In that regard, the representative of a developed country informed the Commission of his Government's intent to provide financial support for the organization of an investment forum in Japan and the Republic of Korea, where prospective entrepreneurs from the least developed countries would be invited to meet their counterparts to discuss the possibility of investment in the least developed countries.

667. The Commission noted with appreciation the action taken by a number of developing countries in providing assistance to the least developed countries within the framework of ECDC-TCDC. It was, however, felt that the donor countries and relevant multilateral financial institutions should provide increased resources to enable the developing countries of the region to intensify their assistance activities in favour of the least developed countries. In that regard, it was recognized that ESCAP could play a catalytic role in enhancing the cooperation between the least developed countries and other developing countries and in exploring new areas for cooperation so as to help improve the economies of the least developed countries.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP funded by extrabudgetary resources and announcement of intended contributions

668. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/876 and E/ESCAP/876/Add.1.

669. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Commission that with total cash contributions of approximately $US 25.26 million in 1991, ESCAP extrabudgetary funding for 1991 had surpassed the regular budget funding by about 8 per cent. Thus, the importance of extrabudgetary resources in implementing the ESCAP programme of work could hardly be overemphasized.

670. With regard to the sources of extrabudgetary resources in 1991, she noted that about 60 per cent had come from the United Nations system, with UNDP, which had designated ESCAP to execute projects amounting to approximately $US 11.5 million, ranking as the largest extrabudgetary donor. Donor countries had contributed approximately $US 8.69 million, and developing countries approximately $US 1.21 million.

671. The Deputy Executive Secretary mentioned that the establishment of cooperation funds between ESCAP and developing countries, such as the China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects and the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, reflected the growing sense of commitment of members and associate members of the region to the ESCAP programme of work. Those funds represented a very important addition to the contributions from traditional donors. She expressed the hope that more developing countries in the region would follow suit.

672. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Commission that four Governments had generously contributed a total amount of $US 210,000 to the ESCAP TCDC Supplementary Fund in 1991. She expressed the hope that the level of cash support to the Fund would be not only maintained but increased in 1992. In that connection, she urged other members and associate members to join in providing support to the Fund.

673. In appealing for increased contributions, the Deputy Executive Secretary reminded the Commission of the severe financial constraints besetting the three regional institutions: SIAP, APCTT, and the CGPRT Centre. She observed that, when making pledges to those institutions, delegations might bear in mind the suggestion made by the secretariat during previous years that the least developed countries and other developing countries should consider $US 1,000 and $US 15,000, respectively, as indicative of appropriate levels of contribution. In addition, delegations might consider providing in-kind contributions to those institutions, particularly experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis. In that connection, she reported that in 1991, 46 such experts had augmented the secretariat's regular budget

and project staff. Among them, 7 had been provided to the regional institutions: 5 in the CGPRT Centre and 2 in APCTT.

674. She further reported that, as decided at the forty-seventh session, the office of RNAM had been relocated from Los Baños, Philippines, to the secretariat's premises in Bangkok in January 1992. She expressed the hope that members and associate members would continue to contribute funds for its institutional and programme operations in 1992.

675. The Deputy Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to document E/ESCAP/876/Add.1, the issuance of which had been necessary in the light of two very recent developments: (a) the concern of the General Assembly to strengthen the operational capabilities of the regional commissions as a part of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields; and (b) the expected decline in the availability of extrabudgetary resources from multilateral sources, as well as the changes in their programming modalities. She urged the Commission to consider those important issues and provide guidance to the secretariat on how to carry out its mandated programmes for the benefit of the members and associate members of the Commission.

676. The Deputy Executive Secretary expressed confidence that the Governments would continue to render unflagging support to ESCAP activities. She therefore hoped that the results of the pledging exercise would once again reaffirm the commitment of the members and associate members to the ideals and purposes for which the Commission had been established.

677. The Commission took note of the following intended contributions announced for 1992.

678. **Afghanistan**. The representative of Afghanistan indicated that, despite economic difficulties, including serious problems of foreign exchange and the budget deficit faced by his Government, Afghanistan would continue to provide support to ESCAP at the same level as in previous years.

679. **Australia**. The representative of Australia noted the improvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of projects administered by ESCAP, and would welcome further improvement in those areas, including financial administration. He announced that his Government would contribute a total sum of $A 430,000 in 1992, comprising $A 130,000 from the unspent balance of its previous years' contributions and new contributions amounting to $A 300,000. He reiterated the commitment of the Australian Government to finance ongoing multi-year projects, namely, development of integrated community-based approaches to drug abuse demand reduction, port and railway infrastructure, economic performance and prospects of Pacific island economies, as well as $A 20,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund. In addition, Australia would support the following activities in 1992:

(a) Workshop on computer applications for groundwater assessment and management;

(b) Development of comprehensive national policies on ageing: lifelong preparatory measures, including social security;

(c) Maritime transport adviser;

(d) $US 20,000 to the fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

He further renewed his Government's offer to provide a statistical adviser to EPOC. While noting the termination of UNDP assistance to REDP as of the end of February 1992, and in view of the priority-setting by participating countries of REDP-related activities for extrabudgetary funding, his Government intended to provide financial support, amounting to $A 2.8 million over a period of three years, for training courses and other activities relating to coal technology previously channelled through REDP.

680. **Bangladesh**. The representative of Bangladesh announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	5,000
CGPRT Centre	1,000
SIAP	5,000
RNAM	6,000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute $US 15,000 to APDC.

681. **Brunei Darussalam**. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced the following contributions:

	$US
SIAP	5,000
Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, a contribution of $US 10,000 would be made to APDC.

682. **Cambodia**. The representative of Cambodia announced that as one of the least developed countries, his Government would contribute $US 1,000 for the ESCAP programme of work.

683. **China**. The representative of China announced that his Government would contribute a total sum of $US 276,000 and ¥RMB 730,000, comprising the following:

(a) ESCAP programme of work, for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects:	¥RMB 550,000

(b) ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects (including $US 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and $US 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund):	$US 120,000
(c) Regional institutions:	
APCTT	$US 15,000
SIAP	$US 21,000
(d) RNAM	$US 20,000

In addition, China would contribute $US 50,000 to CCOP, $US 50,000 and ¥RMB 30,000 to APDC, and ¥RMB 150,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

684. **Fiji**. The representative of Fiji announced that the intended contribution of his Government in 1992 would be at the same level as in the previous year, $US 2,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund and $US 2,355 to SIAP.

685. **France**. The representative of France announced that the intended contribution of his Government in cash and in kind in 1992 would amount to F 11,576,000 for ESCAP activities in the areas of agriculture, transport, energy, human settlements and the environment. Under the agriculture sector, the Government of France would provide two agro-economic experts to the CGPRT Centre, a pesticide expert for ARSAP to work in Suva on the impact of pesticides on the environment, and a database expert to work in the ESCAP secretariat. Under the maritime transport sector, the Government of France would provide an economics expert in the field of multimodal transport and port management. The Government of France proposed to provide support to land transport, especially the rail link between the Korean peninsula and Europe. For the energy sector, the Government of France would continue to support financially the regional energy development programme and provide an expert to be stationed in Bangkok. In the human settlements and environment sectors, the Government of France would continue to provide financial support for consultancy services, missions and seminars, in preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization scheduled to be held in 1993. It would also provide a macroeconomics expert to be located in Port Vila. He reiterated his Government's continued support of activities for least developed countries. He further indicated that his Government would continue to contribute to the Pacific Trust Fund.

686. **India**. The representative of India announced that his Government had already remitted $US 100,000 to APCTT for 1992.

687. **Indonesia**. While appealing for increased support from donor and developed members, as well as multilateral funding agencies, to projects and activities of ESCAP, the representative of Indonesia announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	15,000
SIAP	40,000
RNAM	15,000
Pacific Trust Fund	5,000
CGPRT Centre	Rp 91.2 million

In addition, Indonesia would contribute $US 47,300 to APDC, $US 40,000 to CCOP, $US 62,112 to CIRDAP (Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) and $M 582,152 to SEATRADC (Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre).

688. **Islamic Republic of Iran**. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the following intended contributions:

	$US
(a) APCTT	3,000
(b) ESCAP programme of work	12,000

He indicated that the above-mentioned intended contributions would be in addition to the Government's provision of financial support, estimated at $US 680,000 and Rls 400 million, for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, scheduled to be held at Tehran in 1992.

689. **Japan**. The representative of Japan advised the Commission that his Government would continue to provide expert services on a non-reimbursable loan basis through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and to fund fellowship programmes under SIAP. In addition, the Government of Japan would continue to contribute funds for the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund.

690. **Kiribati**. The representative of Kiribati announced that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to SIAP and $A 2,500 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

691. **Malaysia**. The representative of Malaysia announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	10,000
SIAP	10,000
Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute $US 46,200 and $M 440,000 to APDC.

692. **Maldives**. The representative of Maldives announced that the intended contribution of Maldives in 1992 would be at the same level as in 1991, which had been $US 1,000 to SIAP.

693. **Marshall Islands**. The representative of the Marshall Islands expressed appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat in general, and to EPOC in particular, for their assistance and cooperation to the development efforts of the Marshall Islands. He expressed the interest of his Government in participating in the forthcoming Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications to be held at Bangkok in June 1992, the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology to be held at Tehran in June 1992, the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization scheduled to be held in 1993, and the regional ministerial-level conference on women in development scheduled for 1994. He indicated that the intended contribution of his Government to the Pacific Trust Fund would be communicated to the secretariat at a later date.

694. **Federated States of Micronesia**. The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia expressed appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat for its assistance to that country in past years. He announced that his Government would contribute $US 5,000 to the operation of EPOC in 1992.

695. **Mongolia**. The representative of Mongolia indicated that his Government would contribute the equivalent of $US 1,500 in its national currency to the ESCAP programme of work.

696. **Myanmar**. The representative of Myanmar announced that its intended contribution to the ESCAP programme of work for 1992 would be at the same level as in 1991, which had been $US 2,000.

697. **Nepal**. The representative of Nepal announced the following contributions:

	$US
(a) ESCAP programme of work	2,492
(b) APCTT	500
(c) CGPRT Centre	500
(d) SIAP	500

In addition, Nepal would contribute $US 1,500 to APDC.

698. **The Netherlands**. The representative of the Netherlands announced that, subject to approval, the Netherlands had the clear intention to maintain the 1992 cash contributions of the Netherlands to ESCAP at the same level as in 1991: f. 3.2 million, equivalent to approximately $US 1.7 million. In addition, the Netherlands Government would continue to provide expert services, estimated at f. 400,000. The total contribution of the Netherlands Government would amount to approximately $US 1.9 million.

699. **Pakistan**. The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions, subject to parliamentary approval:

	$US
APCTT	5,000
SIAP	8,000
RNAM	12,000

In addition, Pakistan would contribute $US 30,000 to APDC and $US 11,300 to APT.

700. **Papua New Guinea**. The representative of Papua New Guinea announced that the intended contribution of Papua New Guinea in 1992 would be at the same level as in 1991. However, the intended contribution for the Pacific Trust Fund would be increased by $US 1,000 over the 1991 level. Details of the contributions of Papua New Guinea, based upon the 1991 level as well as the current announcement, would be as follows:

	$US
(a) SIAP	9,502
(b) EPOC	19,447
(c) Pacific Trust Fund	10,160

701. **The Philippines**. The representative of the Philippines announced that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund. He indicated that the intended contributions for APCTT, the CGPRT Centre, SIAP, RNAM, CCOP and APDC in 1992 would be communicated to the secretariat in the near future.

702. **Republic of Korea**. The representative of the Republic of Korea announced the following intended cash contributions:

	$US
Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	400,000
APCTT	10,000
CGPRT Centre	15,000
SIAP	20,000
RNAM	20,000
Pacific Trust Fund	10,000

The intended contribution for RNAM represented an increase of $US 5,000 over the 1991 level. The intended contribution to APCTT represented the resumption of the contribution by the Government of the Republic of Korea, in the light of the financial difficulties faced by the Centre. In addition, the Republic of Korea would provide the services of six experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, estimated at $US 420,000, to augment the staff strength of the secretariat in 1992.

703. **Singapore**. The representative of Singapore announced that Singapore would contribute $US 5,000 to SIAP.

704. **Solomon Islands**. The representative of Solomon Islands pledged in principle that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to EPOC and $US 1,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

705. **Sri Lanka**. The representative of Sri Lanka announced the following contributions for 1992:

	$US
APCTT	5,000
SIAP	5,000
CGPRT Centre	SL Rs 400,000
RNAM	SL Rs 200,000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute $US 27,500 to APDC.

706. **Thailand**. The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	15,000
SIAP	10,000
CGPRT Centre	15,000
RNAM	15,000
Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

Thailand would increase its contribution to SIAP in 1993 to $US 13,000. In addition, Thailand would contribute $US 40,000 to APDC, $US 30,000 to CCOP and $US 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee. It would also provide an in-kind contribution, valued at $US 3,800, to the POPIN (Population Information System) Directory in Indonesia.

707. **Vanuatu**. The representative of Vanuatu announced that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

708. **Viet Nam**. The representative of Viet Nam announced that his Government would make contributions in 1992 at the same level as in 1991:

	$US
APCTT	1,000
CGPRT	1,000

In addition, Viet Nam had contributed $US 1,500 to APDC.

709. **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**. The representative of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands announced that his Government would contribute $US 2,500 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

710. **Hong Kong**. In a written note to the Chairman, and as announced at the session, the representative of Hong Kong indicated that the Hong Kong Government generally supported the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/876/Add.1.

711. **Macau**. The representative of Macau announced that her Government would contribute $US 15,000 to SIAP.

712. **Germany**. In reiterating the continued support of the Government of Germany to ESCAP through the funding of specific technical cooperation activities in selected priority areas of the ESCAP programme of work, the representative of Germany emphasized the importance that his Government attached to intensifying and extending direct links with ESCAP. He informed the Commission that the development assistance programme to ESCAP in 1991 had been DM 3 million, concentrated mainly in the agreed priority areas of cooperation: the extension of the regional transport network, the promotion of industrial development and trade, and the improvement of agricultural productivity through fertilizer utilization. He indicated that the 1992 development assistance programme to ESCAP would continue to be concentrated in the three agreed areas of cooperation within the scope of extrabudgetary resources.

713. **Norway**. The representative of Norway had advised the secretariat earlier that savings of completed projects accumulated from previous years would be used as the resource base for the programming of projects in 1992.

714. The total pledges of contribution for 1992 made by 36 members and associate members and two observer States amounted to approximately $US 11 million, excluding intended contributions of the Government of Japan, which in the previous year had amounted to $US 7.7 million in cash and in kind.

715. The Commission noted that the total pledges mentioned above did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

716. The Deputy Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation of the announcement of intended contributions by members, associate members and donor Governments to the extrabudgetary resources of ESCAP. She emphasized the importance of the level of intended contributions of members and associate members as well as of donor Governments, which would determine the scope of implementation of the mandated programmes of work of ESCAP, particularly in the light of the expected substantial decline in resources from funding agencies within the United Nations system.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

717. The Commission considered and endorsed documents E/ESCAP/878 and E/ESCAP/878/Add.1, the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. It expressed appreciation of the report, which had been prepared by the rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the Commission, and took note of his oral presentation.

718. Since the forty-seventh session of the Commission, ACPR had held 11 regular sessions and 1 special session, at which it had discussed the outcome of the forty-seventh session of the Commission, making several recommendations to improve future sessions; the progress in the implementation of the resolutions and major decisions adopted by the Commission at its forty-seventh session; the report on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, 1990-1991; the schedule of sessions of legislative committees and other major meetings in 1991/92; preparations for the forty-eighth session of the Commission, including its theme topic, dates, draft annotated provisional agenda and draft resolutions; preparations for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology and the second session of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications; preparations for and review of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, and the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission; ESCAP/UNDP cooperation and the status of UNDP-funded projects; revision of the programme structure in the context of expected changes in the subsidiary structure of the Commission; the proposed first revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, including consideration of priority designation among the subprogrammes of the plan; the report on the biennial programme budget, 1992-1993; the tentative calendar of meetings 1992/93; proposed programme changes for 1992-1993; and its own report to the Commission.

719. The Commission reiterated that ACPR played a useful role in performing its functions as a channel of communication between member Governments and the secretariat and in advising the Executive Secretary on various matters. It recognized the catalytic role of ACPR in conducting prior consultations and in coordination, which facilitated consensus on several important issues. Appreciation was also expressed for the cooperation extended by the secretariat for the successful operation of ACPR.

720. The Commission recognized the need to strengthen the functioning of ACPR, particularly in the light of the revision being made in its subsidiary structure, and accordingly, to modify the terms of reference at the current session. Recalling the useful advisory nature of ACPR, the Commission stated that it should play an important role in monitoring the functioning and implementation of the thematic approach. It noted that ACPR should act as a channel of communication between the member Governments and the Executive Secretary on priorities and policy directions in the period between Commission sessions, and assist the Executive Secretary in his determination of the secretariat's responses to those priorities and policies. The Commission endorsed the view that the functioning of ACPR should be strengthened.

721. The Commission noted that ACPR was a unique body within the United Nations system. Not all members and associate members of the Commission were represented in the Committee, and in that regard, it welcomed the designation of the Ambassador of Fiji to Malaysia as the Permanent Representative of Fiji to ESCAP.

722. The Deputy Executive Secretary said that the secretariat was appreciative of the contributions made by ACPR, particularly in complicated and protracted areas of work such as the preparation of the programme of work, the medium-term plan and priority-setting. She expected ACPR to play an increasingly greater role in the period subsequent to the current Commission session, in view of the adjustments that would result from the change to the thematic approach.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-ninth session of the Commission

723. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/879 and Corr.1. It decided that its forty-ninth session would be held at Bangkok in March or April 1993. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member Governments and the Chairman, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly. Certain delegations suggested that the secretariat should examine the possibility of shortening the duration of the session and its agenda.

724. The Commission endorsed the choice of "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development" as the theme topic for its forty-ninth session. There was an understanding that at future sessions the Commission would take up other themes.

Admission of new members

725. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/880 and E/ESCAP/880/Add.1-7. It considered and unanimously endorsed the application of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to become a member of ESCAP, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Commission's terms of reference. The Commission also considered and endorsed the applications of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, which had been associate members, to become members, also in accordance with paragraph 3 of the terms of reference. It considered and endorsed the applications of French Polynesia and New Caledonia to become associate members, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Commission's terms of reference. The Commission recommended the inclusion of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as members of the Commission, with an appropriate recommendation to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council to amend the Commission's terms of reference.

726. The Commission approved four draft resolutions for submission to the Economic and Social Council relating to the amendment of the following paragraphs of its terms of reference:

Paragraph 3, in respect of the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a member.

Paragraphs 3 and 4, in respect of the admission of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands as members.

Paragraphs 2 and 4, in respect of the admission of French Polynesia and New Caledonia as associate members.

Paragraphs 2 and 3, in respect of the admission of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as members.

Other matters

727. The Commission expressed deep appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of China for the excellent arrangements made for hosting the forty-eighth session and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants. It also expressed gratitude to the Chairman of the session and the members of the Bureau for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

Adoption of the report of the Commission

728. At its 739th meeting on 23 April 1992, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft report.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

48/1. Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the rapid economic and political changes taking place in the world, which could provide opportunities for and constitute challenges to economic growth and development, globally as well as in the ESCAP region,

Stressing the importance of a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the need for an open world trading system to underpin regional efforts,

Noting with satisfaction the development of a resilient and buoyant economy in the ESCAP region and growing interlinkages among its members and associate members in the context of regional stability and improved political relations,

Recognizing the need to utilize existing subregional organizations in the region fully, with a view to fostering appropriate cooperation and interaction between them to enhance economic and social progress in the region,

Noting the continually remarkable growth and trade expansion of the ESCAP region as a whole, but recognizing with concern that such performance has not been shared by all the economies of the region, particularly the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island economies,

Realizing that these developments have emphasized the common interests of the ESCAP members and associate members and strengthened their political will to foster closer economic ties, which in turn will contribute to regional development and prosperity,

Convinced of the need for and prospects of sustained and enhanced regional economic cooperation,

Recalling, inter alia, the declaration made at the seventh session of the Commission held at Lahore in 1951, the Tokyo Declaration made at the thirteenth session in 1967, the Seoul Declaration made at the forty-seventh session in 1991, and other relevant instruments of the Commission which provide policy direction for strengthening regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Resolves* to enhance economic cooperation in the ESCAP region;

2. *Resolves also* to impart new impetus to economic cooperation in the region, based on the following guiding principles:

(a) To ensure the sustained growth and development of the region for the good of all its people, thus contributing to the growth and development of the world economy;

(b) To promote economic cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit;

(c) To reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to an open world trading system, as well as to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system in line with the articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

(d) To take fully into account the diversity of the region, particularly in stages of economic development and socio-political systems, and to give due consideration to the special needs of developing members and associate members;

(e) To follow the principles of equality and consensus-building in consultations and dialogue;

3. *Urges* strongly that promotion of intraregional trade and investment, and greater cooperation in science and technology and in the development of infrastructure, should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations;

4. *Welcomes* the setting up of the thematic Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation in the context of the revision of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission;

5. *Directs* the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation to begin work expeditiously by examining trends and developments in the region, and to focus initially on one or two of the priorities mentioned in paragraph 3 above with a view to developing concrete measures for enhancing regional cooperation;

6. *Calls upon* all members to give full and active support to the principles and objectives set forth in the present resolution, which shall be known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation;

---

[1] See paras. 224 above.

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the Beijing Declaration into full account in formulating the programme of work and priorities and report to the Commission on an annual basis, beginning with the forty-ninth session.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/2. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, and 47/3 of 10 April 1991 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the regional commissions were designated as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions and directed to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level, resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979, in which it was decided that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies in their own right, and resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979, on the implementation of resolution 32/197,

Reaffirming that the complexity of the development problems faced by the developing countries increasingly demands that these problems be tackled in a comprehensive manner through interdisciplinary and intersectoral action, and therefore reaffirming its endorsement, in general, at its forty-seventh session, of the recommendation of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission relating to the progressive reorganization of the work of the Commission on a thematic basis,

Recognizing that a reoriented and more effective subsidiary structure would be able to respond better to the changing needs of the members and associate members in the light of emerging economic and social development in the region and the changing scope of regional cooperation, as well as to utilize fully the multidisciplinary advantage of the Commission and its increased capability in technical assistance activities,

Having considered the recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, held at Bangkok from 13 to 17 January 1992, as well as those of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing from 10 to 16 December 1991,

1. *Decides* to revise the conference structure and frequency of meetings to conform to the following pattern:

(1) *The Commission*

The Commission shall meet annually for up to eight working days at the ministerial level to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to decide upon the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

(2) *Subsidiary structure*

A. The following committees and special bodies shall be established and meet at the intervals indicated below:

Thematic committees	*Periodicity*
Regional economic cooperation	Annual, immediately preceding the Commission session, with the exception of its first session in 1992
Steering group of the committee for regional economic cooperation	Twice a year, or as often as required, starting in 1992
Environment and sustainable development	Annual, starting in 1993
Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development	Annual, starting in 1993
Other committees	
Statistics	Biennial, starting in 1992
Transport and communications	Biennial, starting in 1993
Special bodies	
Least developed and land-locked developing countries	Biennial, starting in 1993
Pacific island developing countries	Annual, 1993-1995, thereafter biennial

[2] See paras. 241 above.

B. In order to facilitate its work, the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation shall have a high-level steering group, which will meet twice a year or as often as required. Such a steering group shall form its own agenda and organize its own procedure of work under the overall direction of the Committee. Without prejudice to the principle of equal participation by all members and associate members of the Commission in ESCAP activities, and reaffirming that regional cooperation is primarily the concern and responsibility of the regional members and associate members within the geographical scope of the Commission, the membership of the steering group shall be drawn, on a voluntary basis, from members and associate members within the geographical scope of the Commission. Other members may be welcomed to participate, when desirable, in meetings of the steering group.

C. The revised structure is shown in chart form at annex I to the present resolution.

(3) *Ad hoc ministerial conferences*

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences may be organized on specific issues. Normally, no more than one such conference may be organized during a year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held which is regarded as covering issues normally discussed in a corresponding committee or special body, that committee or special body shall not be convened.

(4) *Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings*

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues;

(b) No more than fifteen such inter-governmental meetings may be held during a calendar year for a maximum of one hundred calendar days.

(5) *Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission*

The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be strengthened in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present resolution.

(6) *Existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission*

The following existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission shall function as prescribed in the respective statutes and terms of reference:

(i) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

(ii) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

(iii) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

(7) *General provisions*

(a) *Functions*

The functions of the committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes III-IX to the present resolution. Committees should select priority issues and focus on well-defined problems in order to show tangible results during the committees' tenure.

(b) *Duration of meetings*

Meetings of all committees shall last for no more than five working days.

(c) *Rules of procedure*

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the committees and special bodies.

(8) *Other provisions*

The other provisions shall include the following:

(a) In view of the establishment of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, the existing Special Body on Land-locked Countries shall be deleted from the conference structure;

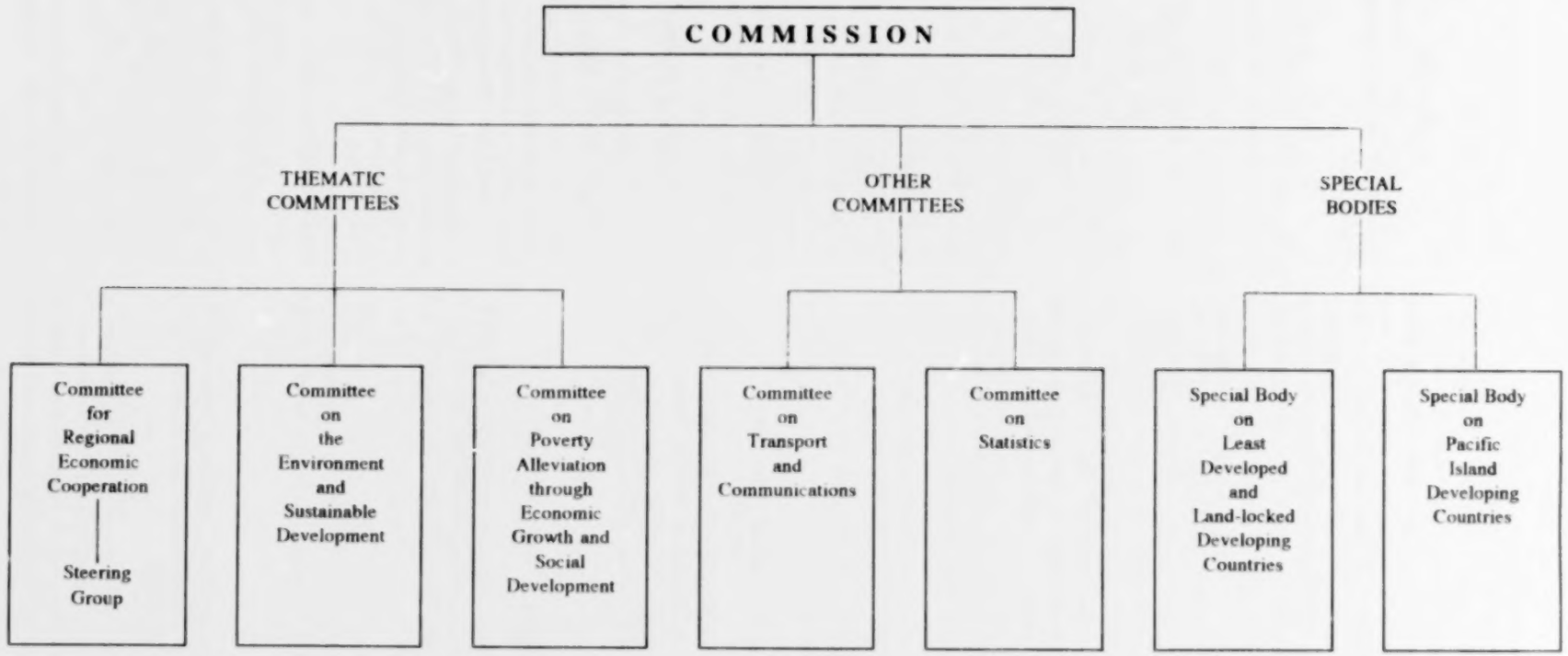
(b) The existing provision for convening ad hoc conferences shall be deleted from the conference structure;

ANNEXES

Annex I

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION


COMMISSION
THEMATIC COMMITTEES
OTHER COMMITTEES
SPECIAL BODIES
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation
Steering Group
Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development
Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development
Committee on Transport and Communications
Committee on Statistics
Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Ministerial conferences

Ministerial conferences on specific issues concerning areas such as the environment, industry and technology, international trade, population, poverty alleviation, social development, women in development, and urbanization would be organized on an ad hoc basis.

Advisory body

Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission convened monthly by the Executive Secretary.

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, under the direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the thematic intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to forward, within the next three months, his assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission to the seats of Governments of members and associate members, through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, for their consideration and decision;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-third session of the Commission.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission.

2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of ESCAP, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings, prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

7. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes of the themes.

8. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In order to sustain and extend the scope of the current dynamism of the economies in the Asian and Pacific region by strengthening their growing interdependence and complementarities, there is an urgent need to enhance economic cooperation in the region. Given the imperative of such enhanced regional economic cooperation for harnessing the potential that exists in the region, the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, under the overall supervision of the Commission, shall perform the following functions:

1. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas, a forum for policy-oriented discussion, and a catalyst for action to promote regional economic cooperation.

2. Review periodically:

(a) The impact on the economies of the Asian and Pacific region of global economic interdependence in such areas as trade, financial and investment flows, technological progress and industrial growth;

(b) The future economic outlook of the region and the structural adjustments needed to strengthen the economies of the region.

3. Initiate policy-oriented studies on regional economic cooperation which, after review by the Committee or its Steering Group, should be disseminated widely in the region.

4. Identify potential areas for regional economic cooperation, recommend appropriate policy options and assist the regional members and associate members of the Commission in implementing measures to achieve such cooperation by encouraging, facilitating and sponsoring consultations through the establishment of working groups, including expert and technical groups and other appropriate arrangements.

5. Develop a close relationship with relevant subregional organizations, promote the interchange of information on their activities and studies on issues relating to regional economic cooperation, and encourage linkages among them.

6. Devise ways and means of establishing dialogue with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities to promote regional economic cooperation.

7. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to regional economic cooperation.

Composition and operational modalities

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall have a high-level steering group drawn from regional members and associate members on a voluntary basis.

The Committee shall meet once a year, preferably immediately before the Commission session. The steering group shall meet twice a year or as often as required.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In view of the continuing environmental degradation in the Asian and Pacific region, mindful of the need to integrate environmental considerations with development objectives, and with a view to ensuring the judicious management of energy and other natural resources for preserving and promoting the conditions necessary for sustainable development, the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region within the context of sustainable development.

2. Review and analyse progress in the development and management of energy and natural resources, keeping in view the need for ensuring sustainable development, and make recommendations on strategies, policies, methods and techniques for the proper investigation, development, utilization and management of energy and natural resources.

3. Identify priority issues in the sustainable development of energy and natural resources, examine the environmental impact of the development and utilization of energy and other natural resources and recommend appropriate strategies and policies to minimize any adverse impact.

4. Assist interested members and associate members in undertaking comprehensive national assessment of risks from natural hazards and taking such assessment into account in their development plans.

5. Undertake surveys and studies for enhancing the understanding of the interrelationship between environmental factors and the development process.

6. Identify and highlight the major environmental processes and concerns with a view to promoting policies and strategies for sustainable development in the region.

7. Promote understanding of the relationship between the environment and poverty and encourage the adoption of environmental strategies which pay due regard to the problems of the poorest sections of the population.

8. Encourage the integration of environmental concerns into development policies, plans and programmes at both the macroeconomic and sectoral levels, emphasizing particularly the problems of the least developed and island developing countries.

9. Encourage the setting of standards and the introduction of legal frameworks for managing natural resources as well as ensuring environmental safeguards in manufacturing, product development and trade.

10. Promote environmental awareness at all levels.

11. Promote regional and subregional cooperation in the fields of environmental protection, and sustainable development of energy and natural resources, taking into account the diversity of national situations in the ESCAP region.

12. Articulate the region's response to relevant international initiatives to ensure that such initiatives do not constrain the sustainable development of the region, taking into account the need to improve the international economic environment.

13. Review regional activities in the field of the environment and sustainable development, make recommendations on the formulation and implementation of the programme of work of the secretariat, and monitor and evaluate the progress of those activities.

14. Encourage the establishment of appropriate mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels to ensure sustainable development through environmental protection and the judicious management of energy and natural resources.

15. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels and take into account their relevant recommendations.

16. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

17. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet annually and report to the Commission.

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Notwithstanding the impressive record of economic growth achieved by the developing economies in the ESCAP region, the region still contains the majority of the world's poor. This situation underscores the fact that rapid growth, by itself, does not guarantee the elimination of or significant reduction in poverty. Therefore, a holistic approach to economic growth inclusive of social development, with poverty alleviation as its major focus, is needed in the region. With a view to articulating such an approach and helping the achievement of a significant degree of poverty alleviation in the region in the 1990s, the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development shall perform the following functions:

1. Review the current trends in economic and social strategies in the region to ensure that, while the region continues to make advances in economic growth, the alleviation of poverty receives high priority in the national policies and programmes for the achievement of economic growth and social development.

2. Encourage the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies and sectoral and intersectoral programmes targeted at the alleviation of poverty, with a focus on vulnerable social groups and such specific groups as isolated rural communities, slum dwellers, the rural landless, and the unemployed.

3. Review and analyse progress in the improvement of policies and programmes for enhancing agricultural growth and rural development, and in particular consider appropriate measures to promote agricultural and rural development with a view to improving the conditions of the rural poor.

4. Consider means whereby poverty alleviation strategies and policies may be effectively formulated and implemented through the participation of the poor.

5. Consider and make recommendations on issues and programmes relating to population, as well as the related issues of social security and social services, to ensure development commensurate with the development objectives of all members and associate members of the Commission.

6. Consider appropriate measures whereby basic human needs, particularly food and nutrition, health care, education and shelter, can be met through decentralization and devolution of authority, and the participation of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

7. Review progress in the integration of women in all aspects of development, and promote the intensification of efforts at the national and regional levels to integrate women into the development process.

8. Undertake periodic review of rural and urban poverty, including its interaction with economic growth, population dynamics, the urbanization process and environmental factors, and suggest development policy towards substantial progress in the alleviation of poverty.

9. Consider and make recommendations on the intersectoral approach in the work programme of the Commission to ensure that concerns relating to poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development are adequately reflected in all activities and programmes undertaken by the secretariat.

10. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels, and take into account their relevant recommendations.

11. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

12. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet annually and report to the Commission.

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

The Committee on Statistics shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region.

2. Assist in the strengthening of the statistical infrastructure in the countries of the region, promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, the international comparability of data and the application of new techniques, and arrange for the exchange of information on and experience in statistical work and methods among the countries.

3. Promote the adoption of international statistical standards and their adaptation, as appropriate, to the conditions and needs of the countries of the region.

4. Promote close coordination of the statistical activities of international organizations in regard to their work in the Asian and Pacific region, so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and reduce to a minimum the burden on national statistical offices.

5. Promote the generation and analysis of statistical data relevant to regional economic cooperation, such as intraregional trade and investment flows in the region.

6. Encourage, with due regard to relevant international work, efforts to develop a set of standardized statistical indicators for the region and, where necessary, a measurement methodology for assessing:

(a) The quality of life;

(b) The quality of the environment;

(c) The application of science and technology to development.

7. Recommend programmes of technical assistance, training, education and research in the various fields of statistics and their application.

8. Review and analyse progress in the development of computerized information processing in the region, especially in the public sector, and make recommendations on issues concerning policies and strategies, as well as on programmes of technical assistance, training and research in this field.

9. Review and evaluate the activities of the secretariat in the areas of statistics and computerized information processing and provide guidance on the work of the secretariat, paying due regard to the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant bodies.

10. Make recommendations to the Advisory Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on the nature of and priorities in statistical training for the countries of the region.

11. Inform the United Nations Statistical Commission and, where appropriate, the statistical authorities of the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies, of its work, so that due attention may be given to the wider aspects of the issues considered by the Committee.

12. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and coordinate activities with them.

13. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

Annex VII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee on Transport and Communications shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and analyse issues, policies and progress in the areas of transport, communications and tourism and advise on the major requirements in these fields, with a view to ensuring that transport and communications infrastructural facilities and services are raised to a level commensurate with the development objectives and priorities of developing members and associate members of the Commission in the region.

2. Encourage the promotion of transport and communications facilities in remote areas of the region, paying special attention to those of the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island developing countries, with a view to alleviating poverty and reducing intraregional disparities in the opportunities for development. The Committee will coordinate its activities with the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development and with the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

3. Promote the creation of and improvement in regional infrastructure facilities and services and border facilitation in the fields of transport and communications, with a view to strengthening regional economic cooperation among the countries of the region. The Committee will work closely with the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation.

4. Recommend measures to address problems of environmental degradation, such as the pollution and deterioration of coastlines and the atmosphere, arising generally from the development of transport and communications infrastructure and particularly from the design, choice of technology, maintenance and operation of various transport vehicles. The Committee will work closely with the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development.

5. Review and undertake policy-oriented studies on current and emerging developments and trends in the fields of transport and communications, as well as on technical innovations and policy-induced changes in those fields; and make recommendations on technical assistance programmes of the Commission.

6. Promote the exchange of experience and techniques in the fields of planning, operation, management, safety and manpower development of transport and communications.

7. Promote tourism at the regional, subregional and national levels, in particular through the development of related infrastructure and human resources, and take steps, in close cooperation with the relevant committees, to minimize the adverse impact of tourism on the social and physical environment.

8. Review and evaluate progress in the implementation of the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and provide guidance on the lead or coordinating agency function of ESCAP for the regional action programme on transport and communications, the implementation of the ESCAP input to the regional action programme, and coordination and cooperation with other regional commissions, in particular the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in relation to their transport and communications programmes.

9. Promote coordination and cooperation between ESCAP and other regional commissions, international agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as existing subregional groupings, in their activities on transport and communications issues at the regional level, particularly where these relate to the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade.

10. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

11. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

Annex VIII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST DEVELOPED AND LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In order to help accelerate the pace of development in the least developed and land-locked developing countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and monitor economic and social progress in the least developed countries, particularly within the context of the implementation, at the regional level, of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and identify and recommend new policy measures as and when necessary.

2. Foster new and strengthen existing intercountry cooperation arrangements between the least developed countries and other developing countries, including the organization of cluster meetings as suggested in the Programme of Action.

3. Undertake periodic analysis and ensure regular dissemination of information on the macroeconomic performance of the least developed countries of the region.

4. Undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on the least developed countries, and identify and recommend effective policy action at the national, regional and international levels for the removal of such constraints, in particular with regard to measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, which should receive the continued attention of the Special Body.

5. Assist the least developed countries in the formulation of appropriate sectoral development strategies, policies and programmes paying due attention to the diverse development circumstances and constraints facing the least developed countries.

6. Convene expert groups, seminars and training courses on subjects of special interest to the least developed countries, as appropriate.

7. Coordinate the secretariat's programme on least developed countries in order to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action in the region.

8. Review the special problems of transit trade and of transport in land-locked countries and recommend suitable measures for solving these problems in accordance with international legal instruments, in particular article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

9. Encourage, through all its activities, the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours to deal with the transit problems within the context of bilateral cooperation.

10. Initiate studies on such subjects as may be required in relation to the special problems of the land-locked countries of the region.

11. Organize expert groups, seminars and training courses on subjects of specific interest to the land-locked and the transit countries concerned, such as customs administration and procedures, inland transport, port facilities, shipping, and ocean freight rates.

12. Arrange for technical and financial assistance from national, regional and international financial institutions for the purpose of improving transit and transport facilities for the land-locked countries.

13. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels, and take into account their relevant recommendations.

14. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

15. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Special Body shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

Annex IX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In order to ensure the participation of the Pacific island developing countries in the mainstream of the economic dynamism of the ESCAP region and to assist them in overcoming their special problems of isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards, and taking into account the work of other organizations and agencies functioning in the area, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and assess progress in the development of the subregion, and assist in the formulation of social and economic development strategies, policies and programmes.

2. Examine special development problems in the subregion, particularly those faced by the least developed or smaller island economies, and identify appropriate domestic policies and possible avenues and modalities of external economic and technical assistance to solve or alleviate those problems.

3. Review and make recommendations for policy-oriented research and action on macroeconomic and sectoral development issues in the light of the special constraints being faced by the Pacific island developing countries.

4. Give special attention to overcoming the development constraints faced by the Pacific island countries by fostering and strengthening economic and technical cooperation among the countries and areas of the subregion, and between the subregion and other ESCAP members and associate members.

5. Identify technical assistance and other activities to be implemented for the benefit of the subregion.

6. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels and take into account their relevant recommendations.

7. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Special Body shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

48/3. Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling all General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on disability matters, including General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982, on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, in which, *inter alia*, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also Commission resolution 207 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, concerning effective implementation and follow-up of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, "Full participation and equality",

Mindful that the risk of disability increases with age and that, with the expected rapid ageing of the societies in the region, the number of disabled persons will increase substantially,

Recognizing that while the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has increased awareness of disability issues and has facilitated considerable progress in the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons in the ESCAP region, progress towards improving the situation of disabled persons has been uneven, particularly in the developing and least developed countries,

Noting that the Expert Group Meeting to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in the Asian and Pacific Region, held in August 1991, and convened by ESCAP, recognized that there was a need for a second decade of disabled persons to consolidate the gains achieved thus far in the ESCAP region,

Noting further that the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in October 1991, expressed support for the declaration of a second decade of disabled persons,

1. *Proclaims* the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with a view to giving fresh impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 1992 and strengthening regional cooperation to resolve issues affecting the achievement of the goals of the World Programme of Action, especially those concerning the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;

3. *Urges* all member and associate member Governments to review the situation of disabled persons in their countries and areas, with a view to developing measures that enhance the equality and full participation of disabled persons, including the following:

(a) Formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in economic and social development;

(b) Establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees on disability matters, with emphasis on, *inter alia*, the adequate and effective representation of disabled persons and their organizations, and their roles therein;

(c) Provision of assistance, in collaboration with international development agencies and non-governmental organizations, in enhancing community-based support services for disabled persons and the extension of services to their families;

(d) Promotion of special efforts to foster positive attitudes towards children and adults with disabilities, and the undertaking of measures to improve their access to rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural and sports activities and the physical environment;

4. *Urges* all concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake an examination of their ongoing programmes and projects in the ESCAP region, with a view to integrating disability concerns into their work programmes systematically and supporting national implementation of the present resolution;

---

[3] See paras. 536 above.

5. *Calls upon* non-governmental organizations in the field of social development to utilize their experience and expertise in strengthening the capabilities and activities of organizations of disabled persons;

6. *Urges* organizations of disabled persons to cooperate with government agencies in strengthening means by which citizens with disabilities may realize their full potential, and to strengthen linkages among disabled persons in developed and developing countries to enhance their self-help capacity;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist, subject to available financial resources, member and associate member Governments in the following:

(a) Developing and pursuing national programmes of action during the forthcoming Decade;

(b) Formulating and implementing technical guidelines and legislation to promote access by disabled persons to buildings, public facilities, transport and communications systems, information, education and training, and technical aids;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially until the end of the Decade on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, on action to maintain the momentum of the Decade.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/4. Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 on regional cooperation in the field of population, in which the Commission established the Asian Population Conference as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years, for the consideration of all aspects of population questions and of their impact on economic and social development,

Noting the various recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, made in consultation with representatives of selected Governments in the region, the United Nations Population Fund as a joint sponsor, specialized agencies and others, at the first and second sessions of the Committee convened in 1990 and 1991 respectively, to make preparations for the Conference,

Considering the overriding importance of population in the sustainable economic and social development of countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region,

Stressing the important role of the Commission in the field of population and as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting recommendation 52 of the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development, adopted at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, in which the secretariat was called upon to provide support to members and associate members of the Commission in the implementation of the recommendations of that Conference and to undertake periodic review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Call for Action,

Recalling its decision to organize the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference as a ministerial meeting jointly with the United Nations Population Fund in order to review the changes in the population situation that occurred during the 1980s and highlight the perspectives of population policies and programmes during the 1990s in countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific,

Reiterating its invitation to all member and associate member Governments to participate in the Conference, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 19 to 27 August 1992,

1. *Calls upon* member and associate member Governments to undertake the necessary review and appraisal of population trends and policies in their countries and areas so that they will be in a position to report to the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

2. *Urges* member and associate member Governments to participate fully and enthusiastically, at the ministerial level, in its deliberations, which are aimed at determining goals, strategies and directions for the achievement of sustainable development in the twenty-first century;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary follow-up activities based on the recommendations of the Conference and provide the necessary assistance to the member and associate member Governments in their implementation of those recommendations, subject to available financial resources;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to present the findings and recommendations of the Conference as the main Asian and Pacific regional input to the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

---

[4] See paras. 510 above.

48/5. Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling Commission resolution 45/1 of 5 April 1989 on a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond, in which it decided to convene the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development at Manila in 1991 to consider and adopt a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond,

Recalling also its resolution 47/5 of 10 April 1991 on regional support for the alleviation of poverty,

Noting with concern that, during the last three decades, poverty has persisted and in some cases has become more entrenched among large segments of society, and that the quality of life of the majority of the people in the region, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including women, children and youth, disabled persons and the elderly, continues to be marked by deprivation of the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and essential services such as clean water, sanitation, health care and education,

Reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of social development in the ESCAP region, with a focus on the eradication of absolute poverty, pursuit of distributive justice, and enhancement of popular participation,

Mindful of the improved international political climate, which has increased opportunities for enhanced social development in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Manila from 7 to 11 October 1991, of the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and endorses the Strategy annexed to that Declaration;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Social Development Strategy;

3. *Calls upon* all concerned donor countries and funding agencies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide substantive and financial support for the implementation of the Strategy;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To examine modalities for the implementation of the Strategy and, in that connection, convene a meeting of experts in 1992 to obtain advice on that matter;

(b) To establish an inter-agency task force to promote intersectoral participation and ensure effective coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the implementation of the Strategy;

(c) To establish a forum of non-governmental organizations concerned with social development issues in the region to promote their active and constructive participation and ensure their effective coordination in the implementation of the Strategy;

(d) To convene in 1994 a regional conference of senior government officials, concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to review and assess the progress achieved towards attaining the aims and objectives of the Strategy, consider the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Strategy, and revise it as may be called for in the light of experience and changing regional social conditions;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for submission to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development to be held in 1996.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/6. Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Noting the importance that has been accorded to the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action by Governments throughout the region, as reflected, *inter alia*, in the establishment of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development,

Noting also the useful work undertaken by the secretariat in association with the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action,

---

[5] See paras. 204 above.

[6] See paras. 343 above.

Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for its financial and substantive support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members of the Commission to intensify their efforts to promote human resources development through the active implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

2. *Invites* all development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, to support and participate actively in the regional initiative to promote human resources development through the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

3. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme to provide adequate funding under its fifth intercountry programme to support the further implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to provide, subject to available financial resources, upon request, support to the activities of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development, particularly in the following areas:

(a) Strengthening linkages among government agencies and between them and non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

(b) Adopting an integrated approach to human resources development;

(c) Building a human resources development information base;

(d) Promoting the training of public sector and non-governmental organization personnel in human resources development-related skills;

(e) Enhancing public awareness of the concept and practice of human resources development as elaborated in the Jakarta Plan of Action;

(f) Establishing, in each participating country and area, a national advisory mechanism to provide conceptual guidance to human resources development initiatives at the national level;

(g) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare standardized procedures for use by Governments in the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

(b) To conduct a review of the status of implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action by members and associate members of the Commission;

(c) To convene an expert group meeting to re-examine the Jakarta Plan of Action with a view to refining it to ensure its continued relevance to changing conditions in the region;

(d) To refine the Jakarta Plan of Action in conformity with the findings of the above expert group meeting for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/7. Guidelines for consumer protection[7]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, in which the Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection,

Noting with satisfaction the recommendations of the United Nations Regional Seminar on Consumer Protection for Asia and the Pacific, held at ESCAP from 19 to 22 June 1990,

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/85 of 27 July 1990 on consumer protection, in which the Secretary-General was requested in cooperation with, *inter alia*, the regional commissions of the United Nations to continue to provide assistance to Governments, in particular to those of developing countries and other interested countries, in implementing the guidelines for consumer protection, and to develop a programme of action for the next five years on the implementation of the guidelines,

1. *Commends* the Executive Secretary on the efforts currently being undertaken by ESCAP to promote the implementation of the guidelines for consumer protection;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and development funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other relevant bodies and agencies in the United Nations system, to promote the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, initiate specific activities to follow up the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Consumer Protection for Asia and the Pacific and to seek such extrabudgetary contributions as may be necessary for that purpose.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

---

[7] See paras. 539 above.

48/8. Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region[8]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the emergence in the ESCAP region of a group of countries with transitional disadvantaged economies,

Warmly welcoming as new members of the Commission several Asian republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Taking into consideration the complexity of the transition process, in connection with the need to overcome great difficulties and, in some cases, crisis situations in their economies,

Taking into account that the earliest possible stabilization of the social and economic situations in the countries with transitional disadvantaged economies, and their determination to increase their regional and global relations, coincide with the interests of the members and associate members of the Commission, especially in the medium and long-term perspective,

Desiring to assist in overcoming the difficulties during this critical period and in solving the social and economic problems of transition in this group of countries,

1. *Recommends* that activities relating to the countries with transitional disadvantaged economies should be included in the programme of work as soon as possible, and that their needs should be taken into account by revising and implementing the medium-term plan of the Commission for the period 1992-1997, and redesigning specific components to respond to those needs, without prejudice to the existing priorities established by the Commission;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to provide, subject to additional available resources, consultancy and technical assistance in economic reform, structural adjustment and the social development problems that accompany economic reform;

3. *Further recommends* that the Executive Secretary should ask for voluntary contributions to enable the full participation of these countries, which are in need of such support, in all appropriate ESCAP meetings;

4. *Invites* all members and associate members of the Commission in a position to do so to contribute generously and promptly.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

[8] See paras. 296 above.

48/9. Strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries[9]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering the special development problems faced by small, isolated and dispersed islands,

Noting with concern the decline in total ESCAP programme support for its nineteen Pacific island members and associate members,

Recalling its resolution 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Commission's activities in the Pacific, which committed ESCAP to special measures in favour of the Pacific island developing countries,

Noting the importance of adjustment and reform measures for Pacific island countries in the face of the rapidly changing global economic and geopolitical realities,

Supporting their wider aim of poverty alleviation through economic growth flowing from economic and financial management, adjustment and reform,

Understanding the urgency expressed by the Pacific island countries to embrace major undertakings in economic reform and structural adjustment to achieve economic independence,

Recognizing the need to address the difficult social and political issues that arise in the wake of structural adjustment programmes,

Further noting the desire of the Pacific island countries for increased integration of their economies into those of the broader ESCAP region,

Recognizing the mutual benefits that will accrue to both ESCAP headquarters at Bangkok and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Vanuatu from closer, strengthened linkages by exposing ESCAP staff members more closely to the special development problems of the water-locked Pacific island countries,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within the framework of existing resources, to redeploy three Professional staff members from ESCAP headquarters to the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Vanuatu;

2. *Also requests* that the redeployment be for a period of three years, commencing in 1993;

3. *Further requests* that each of the redeployed staff members have expertise and experience so as to complement the available technical expertise at the Centre and to provide technical assistance under the direction of the Head of the Centre in the following fields:

(a) Economic and financial management, structural adjustment and economic reform;

[9] See paras. 657 above.

(b) Social development problems that flow from economic adjustment and reform programmes;

(c) Market development and trade promotion to broaden the export potential of the Pacific island economies.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/10. Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT)[10]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the value of international trade fairs in strengthening regional economic cooperation through the promotion of intraregional and international trade,

Recalling that the successful international trade fairs held at Bangkok in 1966, Tehran in 1969, New Delhi in 1972 and Beijing in 1985 played a very positive role in fostering economic cooperation and trade relations among all members and associate members of the Commission, and in developing their economies,

Recognizing the increasingly active economic and trade interaction among members and associate members of the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 248 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT), in which it requested the Executive Secretary to help organize the holding of a regional trade fair at appropriate intervals, preferably once in every three to five years,

Convinced that the next Fair will provide an opportunity to project the changes in the pattern of trade and review the technological developments and industrial restructuring in the region since the 1985 Fair, in order to highlight the increasing intraregional trade complementarities emerging therefrom,

Realizing the necessity of holding the fifth Fair in 1994,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of China for its generous offer to host the next Fair,

1. *Decides* that the fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair will be held at Beijing in 1994;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to extend all possible assistance to the Fair, subject to available financial resources, and to approach the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral donors with regard to the extension of financial support to the Fair;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments of members and associate members of the Commission and other members of the United Nations to give full support to the fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair, and to encourage and assist their industrial and commercial organizations to participate in the Fair.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/11. Road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures[11]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that it is in the interests of all concerned countries in the region to promote international trade, tourism and transport,

Noting that large divergences between national transport facilitation measures exist in the region,

Being aware that international coordination and cooperation in the field of transport facilitation could contribute effectively to the development of international trade and transport in the region,

Recognizing that harmonized transport facilitation measures at the national and international levels are a prerequisite for enhancing international trade and transport along road and rail routes of international importance,

Desiring to secure the greatest possible simplification and harmonization of international land transport regulations and procedures in the region,

Noting that a large number of international agreements and conventions already exist in the field of transport facilitation, to which countries in the region may wish to accede or whose provisions could be used as an example for similar regional agreements and conventions,

1. *Recommends* that the countries in the region, if they have not already done so, consider the possibility of acceding to the following:

---

[10] See paras. 447 above.

[11] See paras. 603 above.

The Convention on Road Traffic of 1968, and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals of 1968

International customs transit regimes, such as those stipulated in the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) of 1975 (as recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/79 of 27 July 1984)

The Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles of 1956 (currently under review) and the Customs Convention on Containers of 1972, to enact facilities for the temporary importation of goods road vehicles and loading units

The International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods of 1982, as a legal framework for the harmonization of such operations to minimize border control measures in international transport, harmonize their inspection requirements, and to provide, if possible, for joint inspection locations

The Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) of 1956, to establish internationally acceptable regulations on the legal relationship between road carriers and consignees or consignors;

2. *Also recommends* that the secretariat should examine the needs of individual countries or groups of countries in relation to the adoption of facilitation measures in the field of road and rail transport and, at the request of Governments, provide advisory services, and convene expert group meetings to consider problems, bottlenecks and facilitation measures in the field of road and rail transport.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/12. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific[12]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and particularly paragraph 6, in which it was stated that the effectiveness of the regional commissions should be strengthened and that the regional commissions, particularly those located in developing countries, should also be strengthened in terms of their activities and participation in operational activities of the United Nations system, and in which the regional commissions were requested to provide recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session,

Directs, in view of the time constraints of the present Commission session, the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, as an exceptional case:

(a) To seek the views of members and associate members on the General Assembly resolution;

(b) To draft a response to the General Assembly;

(c) To submit the draft response for consideration by members and associate members;

(d) To convey the response through the Executive Secretary to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

(e) To report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

---

[12] See paras. 189 above.

Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1992-1993

Programme: 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

CONTENTS

Subprogrammes	*Page*
1. Agricultural and rural development	121
2. Development issues and policies	124
3. Energy	126
4. Environment	129
5. Human resources development	131
6. Human settlements	133
7. Industrial and technological development	135
8. International trade and development finance	138
9. Natural resources (including marine affairs)	142
10. Population	145
11. Social development	148
12. Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	151
13. Statistics	153
14. Transport and communications	155
15. Women in development	158
16. Transnational corporations	160
Appendix	162

Subprogramme 1: Agricultural and rural development

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	144	48	2 320.0
1.1 *Parliamentary services*	18	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Reports to the Commission on agricultural plans and strategies, rural development and poverty alleviation (annual)*	8	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	5	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	5	-	-
1.2 *Published materials*	36	-	400.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Inter-agency Newsletter on Rural Poverty Alleviation (biannual) (XB)	4	-	-
(b) Agricultural Information Development Bulletin (quarterly)	-	-	20.0
(c) Regional Information Support Service on Agro-chemicals (monthly) (XB) [and annual indexes (two issues)]	-	-	-
(d) Agro-chemical News in Brief (quarterly) (XB) [and special issues (two issues per year) and two issues postponed from 1990-1991]	8	-	50.0
(e) Fertilizer Trade Information Bulletin (monthly) (XB)	-	-	-
(f) Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals (quarterly) (XB)	-	-	8.0
(g) Regional Agro-pesticide Index (annual) (XB)	-	-	-
(h) Fertilizer trade information through telexes and faxes (fortnightly, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	50.0
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Manual on farm broadcasting (XB)	-	-	14.0
(b) Training manual on satellite drought, flood, cyclone early warning and natural resources (XB)	5	-	105.0
(c) Project on regional satellite drought, flood, cyclone early warning and natural resources monitoring (XB)**	6	-	-
(d) Agricultural strategy in least developed countries (XB)	2	-	-
(e) Supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers (three) (XB)	-	-	50.0

Agricultural and rural development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(f) Environmental aspects of fertilizer (XB)	-	-	10.0
(g) Successful agricultural development methodologies (two) (XB)	-	-	30.0
(h) Directory of fertilizer-related information (XB)	-	-	20.0
(i) A compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural development (XB)	1	-	1.0
(j) Training manual on satellite crop monitoring (fourth quarter, 1990) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
(k) Study on agro-climatic assessment of food supplies in Asia [postponed from 1988-1989]	6	-	5.0
(l) Six country studies on supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers [postponed from 1988-1989]	-	-	-
(m) Five studies on fertilizer logistics management, farm-level distribution systems, pricing policies, credit availability and the economics of fertilizer use [postponed from 1988-1989]	-	-	-
(n) Agro-pesticides: their management and application — revised edition [postponed from 1988-1989]	-	-	-
(o) Study on promoting non-farm employment [postponed from 1988-1989]	2	-	-
(p) ARSAP/CIRAD agro-pesticide index (fourth quarter, 1990 and 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
(iii) *Technical material:*			
(a) Illustrated safe handling and application of pesticides, flip charts in various languages	2	-	8.0
(b) Computerized fertilizer database under the network of fertilizer information systems	-	-	14.0
(c) Illustrated safety guides on pesticides, in local languages (one issue remains) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	15.0
1.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	2	-	110.0
(a) Rural poverty alleviation	2	-	-
(b) Establishing a regional network for cooperation in agriculture and rural communication	-	-	110.0
1.4 ***Operational activities***	63	48	1 810.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Improvement of fertilizer production, marketing, distribution and use, and human resources development	8	24	100.0
(b) Establishing computerized databases under a network of fertilizer and pesticide information systems	2	-	10.0

Agricultural and rural development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(c) Promotion of environmentally sound and safe management of fertilizer use and pesticide use	6	24	80.0
(d) Establishing a regional network for cooperation in agricultural and rural communication	-	-	45.0
(e) Executing satellite crop monitoring through the regional satellite drought, flood, cyclone early warning and natural resources monitoring project	10	-	800.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Satellite drought, flood and cyclone early warning and natural resources monitoring	7	-	200.0
(b) Agricultural strategies for the least developed countries	10	-	200.0
(c) Role of women in agricultural development	5	-	50.0
(d) Management of utilization of agricultural residues and other biomass	3	-	-
(e) Strengthening socio-economic development policies related to food and agriculture	8	-	165.0
(f) Poverty alleviation with focus on the participatory approach to rural development	-	-	80.0
(g) Poverty alleviation with focus on employment generation among rural disadvantaged groups, including rural women	4	-	80.0
1.5 ***Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison***	25	-	-
(a) Participation in the United Nations Inter-agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific and its Task Force	6	-	-
(b) Liaison with the national officers on integrated rural development	4	-	-
(c) Support to the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Rural Development; coordination with the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific in poverty alleviation activities**	10	-	-
(d) Support for the Centre for Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops	4	-	-
(e) Coordination with UNEP, FAO, WHO and UNIDO in carrying out operational activities and agro-pesticides	1	-	-

Subprogramme 2: Development issues and policies

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	240	-	1 382.0
2.1 *Parliamentary services*	27	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-
(b) Reports to the Commission on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in the ESCAP region (annual)	4	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual), 1992 and 1993	8	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	11	-	-
2.2 *Published materials*	123	-	842.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (annual)	12	-	-
(b) Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (biannual) [and two issues postponed from 1990-1991]	6	-	-
(c) Development Papers (biannual)	6	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) The economic performance and development prospects (annual)	6	-	-
(b) Macroeconomic policies on restructuring, stabilization and growth*	24	-	200.0
(c) Possibilities of increasing intraregional trade and complementarities among the economies	14	-	100.0
(d) New regional cooperation initiatives in the field of investment, finance, trade, taxation, environment, technology transfer and infrastructure development*	14	-	207.0
(e) Tax reforms for balanced achievement of the objectives of productivity, efficiency, incentive, compliance and equity	9	-	100.0
(f) Reforms and liberalization of the financial sector**	8	-	100.0
(g) Emerging social security systems**	6	-	90.0
(h) Economic implications of global warming**	6	-	15.0

Development issues and policies (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(i) Women in development*	6	-	15.0
(j) The contribution of human resources development to economic growth**	6	-	15.0
2.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	8	-	-
(a) Development issues and policies (two)	8	-	-
2.4 ***Operational activities***	78	-	540.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies for restructuring, stabilization and growth	12	-	-
(b) Methods and techniques of development planning	6	-	-
(c) Fiscal and financial planning and management	6	-	-
(d) Economic aspects of social and environmental development	8	-	-
(e) Regional economic forecasting system	10	-	-
(f) Policy models*	10	-	-
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Seminars and workshops in the above-mentioned areas	26	-	540.0
2.5 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	4	-	-
(a) Substantive consultations with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development in undertaking several activities in the field of development issues and policies, particularly the annual Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific and activities related to work on economic modelling and projections	4	-	-

Subprogramme 3: Energy

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	154	-	3 100.0
3.1 *Parliamentary services*	34	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the status and potential for energy conservation in small and medium-scale industries*	2	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on the progress and functioning of the regional working groups on energy planning, energy conservation, natural gas, coal development, new and renewable sources of energy and electric power development (annual)*	2	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on fossil fuel use, climate change and options for energy sector implementation of "Agenda 21" (1993)	2	-	-
(d) Report to the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1993)	6	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	2	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on energy planning (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(d) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on natural gas (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(e) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on energy conservation (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(f) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on coal development (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(g) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on rural energy planning and development (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(h) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on specific areas of new and renewable sources of energy (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(i) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on electric power development (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
3.2 *Published materials*	51	-	-
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Energy Newsletter (quarterly)	6	-	-
(b) Energy Resources Development Series (biennial)	6	-	-
(c) Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific (biennial)	6	-	-

Energy (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Pacific oil policy issues**	4	-	-
(b) A compendium of case-studies on environmentally sound oil and gas development and utilization**	3	-	-
(c) Trends and issues in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy in the Asian and Pacific region**	3	-	-
(d) Economic load dispatch and load management technology in the Asian context**	3	-	-
(e) Sectoral energy demand studies in Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	-	-
(f) Sectoral energy demand studies in Myanmar	2	-	-
(g) Sectoral energy demand studies in the Philippines	2	-	-
(h) Sectoral energy demand studies in Sri Lanka	2	-	-
(i) Sectoral energy demand studies in Viet Nam	2	-	-
(j) Sectoral energy demand studies in Asia: synthesis report	2	-	-
(k) Guidebook on rural electrification (fourth quarter, 1990) [postponed from 1990-1991]	2	-	-
(iii) *Technical material:*			
(a) Sectoral energy demand database	2	-	-
(b) Updating database computer software DBA/VOID	2	-	-
(c) Updating energy demand analyses computer software, MEDEE-S	2	-	-
3.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	4	-	-
(a) Work related to the ad hoc expert group meeting preparatory to the first session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1992)	4	-	-
3.4 ***Operational activities***	62	-	3 100.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Integrated energy planning with due consideration of environmental aspects	6	-	200.0
(b) Energy conservation and efficiency	6	-	150.0
(c) Natural gas market development and efficient utilization of oil	6	-	150.0
(d) Coal development, coal utilization and clean coal technology	6	-	900.0
(e) Rural energy development	5	-	200.0
(f) Optimum utilization and conservation of electricity	5	-	200.0

Energy (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Group training in each of the above-mentioned areas	24	-	1 200.0
(b) Energy planning for the least developed countries	4	-	100.0
3.5 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	3	-	-
(a) Coordination through meeting with United Nations organizations on specific energy matters	2	-	-
(b) Liaison with regional international organizations/agencies, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, on electricity and nuclear power planning	1	-	-

Subprogramme 4: Environment

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	96	48	3 500.0
4.1 ***Parliamentary services***	8	2	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on progress of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*	2	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on special studies relating to environmental aspects of development of transport and agriculture [postponed from 1988-1989]	2	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	2	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	2	-	-
4.2 ***Published materials***	28	8	640.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) ESCAP Environment News (quarterly) [and one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	3	-	-
(b) Environmental News Briefing — A Selection from the Region's Press (monthly, XB)	2	-	20.0
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Reference book on environment in Asia and the Pacific (XB)**	-	2.5	65.0
(b) Guidebook on environmental reporting	-	2.5	40.0
(c) Citizens' reports on the state of the environment**	4	-	-
(d) Manual on environmental accounting	2	-	-
(e) Case-studies on principles and methodologies on environmentally sound and sustainable development (XB)*	3	-	40.0
(f) Code of conduct on environmental protection (two volumes) (XB)	2	-	85.0
(g) Methodology for integration of environmental considerations into national planning (XB)	-	3	70.0
(h) Guidelines on development of environmental pollution control legislation (XB)**	2	-	75.0
(i) Guidelines on environmental pollution monitoring system (XB)**	2	-	100.0

Environment (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(j) Manual on promotion of environmental technology and prevention of chemical accidents (XB)	2	-	65.0
(k) Manual on development and implementation of coastal environmental management plans (XB)	2	-	40.0
(l) Country-specific environmental management plans (XB)	4	-	40.0
(m) Manual on pollution control technologies (first quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
4.3 ***Operational activities***	60	38	2 860.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Environmental considerations in sectoral development policies	5	1	85.0
(b) Environmentally sound and sustainable development	3	6	865.0
(c) Environmental management tools	3	-	85.0
(d) Desertification control technology	8	3	75.0
(e) Environmental resources enhancement for rural areas	-	3	80.0
(f) Establishment and servicing of a regional network of economic and environmental policy research institutions**	-	2.5	40.0
(g) Protection of marine environment and coastal areas in South Asian Seas and development of the South Asian Seas action plan*	2	1	75.0
(h) Monitoring of illegal transboundary movement of toxic and dangerous products and wastes	1	2.5	60.0
(i) Environmental awareness	2	-	210.0
(j) Conservation and management of critical ecosystems	6	5	340.0
(k) Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific	9	4	340.0
(l) Institutional strengthening for protection of management of coastal environment	3	1	125.0
(m) Support to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	6	1	150.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Code of environmental conduct	-	5	125.0
(b) Desertification control and soil degradation	8	2	80.0
(c) Toxic and hazardous waste management; water and air quality monitoring	1	-	41.0
(d) Women, youth and environment	1	-	42.0
(e) Environmentally sound and sustainable development and technology	2	1	42.0

Subprogramme 5: Human resources development

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	24	-	400.0
5.1 *Parliamentary services*	4.5	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the status of national focal points for human resources development in the ESCAP region*	0.25	-	-
(b) Report on the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region*	1.5	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	0.75	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of ESCAP national focal points for human resources development*	2	-	-
5.2 *Published materials*	7	-	70.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) ESCAP HRD Newsletter (biannual)	2	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Guidelines on promoting public awareness of human resources development (XB)**	1	-	20.0
(b) A survey of intersectoral coordination of human resources development by Governments (XB)	2	-	25.0
(c) Study on the socio-cultural impact of human resources development [postponed from 1990-1991]	2	-	25.0
5.3 *Operational activities*	8.5	-	330.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Human resources development planning and programming in support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action	2	-	50.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Enhancing national human resources development policies and programmes and strengthening the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development	2	-	150.0
(b) Training to upgrade the skills of public sector and NGO personnel in the planning and delivery of human resources development services	2	-	100.0
(c) ESCAP Human Resources Development Award	2.5	-	30.0

Human resources development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
5.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	4	-	-
(a) Coordination through inter-agency meetings and consultations with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on regional implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region	2	-	-
(b) Liaison through consultations with non-governmental organizations on regional implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action	1	-	-
(c) Coordination, through meetings and consultations with concerned ESCAP divisions/units, on intersectoral programme planning and implementation in the field of human resources development	1	-	-

Subprogramme 6: Human settlements

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	72	24	800.0
6.1 ***Parliamentary services***	22	16	230.0
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on national strategies for shelter to the year 2000*	1	4	-
(b) Report to the Regional Conference on Urbanization on the state of urbanization in Asia and the Pacific (also issued as a publication)*	8	8	70.0
(c) Report to the Regional Conference on Urbanization on a regional action plan and framework for the formulation of national action plans on urbanization (also issued as a publication)*	4	1	10.0
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committes and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	2	1	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the regional conference on urbanization (fourth quarter, 1992)	5	2	150.0
6.2 ***Published materials***	10	-	90.0
(i) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Guidelines on environmentally sound and sustainable development of urban areas	3	-	15.0
(b) Training modules on subnational planning for development of secondary cities**	3	-	25.0
(c) Directory of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations active in human settlements	2	-	20.0
(d) An information kit on shelter and settlements issues and approaches	2	-	30.0
6.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	5	2	50.0
(a) Pre-conference expert group meeting on urbanization (1992)	5	2	50.0

Human settlements (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
6.4 *Operational activities*	35	6	430.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) The introduction of environmental impact assessment in urban development planning and management	1	-	30.0
(b) Establishment of a network of institutes conducting training and research on human settlements issues	1	1	30.0
(c) Establishment of an Asia and Pacific urban forum	2	1	30.0
(d) Housing finance and credit systems	1	2	40.0
(e) Low-income settlements through participatory approaches**	2	-	40.0
(f) Strengthening the regional network of local authorities, CITYNET	4	-	30.0
(g) Urbanization policies and shelter strategies	3	-	20.0
(h) Strengthening the construction and building materials industries through the promotion of component building in the informal sector	3	-	40.0
(i) Role of women in community organizations for settlements improvement	3	-	30.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Land management for urban development in Pacific island countries	5	2	60.0
(b) The environmental component of training provided under the human resources development subprogramme**	6	-	50.0
(c) Cooperation in research and training programmes on human settlements development	4	-	30.0

Subprogramme 7: Industrial and technological development

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	288	48	2 950.0
7.1 *Parliamentary services*	31	-	110.0
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific	6	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Meeting of Minister of Industry and Technology (third quarter 1990) [postponed from 1990-1991]	12	-	110.0
(c) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	10	-	-
(d) Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
7.2 *Published materials*	72	4	725.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific (annual) [and one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	6	-	-
(b) Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (annual) [and one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	6	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Regional plan of action on technology-led industrial development*	5.5	-	45.0
(b) Regional review and assessment of industrial progress, manufacturing diversification and improved competitiveness (annual)(XB)	6	-	35.0
(c) Strategies for technological transformation of selected industries (XB)	3.5	-	90.0
(d) Guidelines for infrastructure and institutional/policy reforms of industrialization of least developed and island developing economies*	6	-	155.0
(e) Strengthening agro-industry linkages for promotion of agro-based industries to alleviate poverty, as well as rural-urban balance of industrial activities (XB)	6	-	45.0
(f) Technology transfer and entrepreneurship development	6	-	35.0
(g) Promotion and transfer of environmentally benign and clean industrial technologies (XB)	4.5	-	90.0
(h) Patent laws, regulations and organizational structure (XB)*	3.5	4	90.0
(i) Energy conservation and industrial development (XB)	4	-	50.0

Industrial and technological development *(continued)*

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(j) Prospects of economic and technical cooperation in standardization, quality control and testing facilities	6	-	-
(k) Human resources requirements and skills promotion for structural transformation in industry*	4.5	-	90.0
(l) Studies on sectoral industrial development (third quarter, 1990 and 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1.5	-	-
(m) Studies on the improvement of managerial and technical efficiency, including privatization of public sector industries (one in fourth quarter, 1990 and one in fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1.5	-	-
(n) Manual on information, education and communication techniques for popularizing innovations in food technology (fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1.5	-	-
7.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	28	4	70.0
(a) Strategies for information technology-led development (XB)**	8	2	35.0
(b) Patent laws, regulations and organizational structure	8	2	-
(c) Improvement of efficiency in public sector industries, including privatization measures	6	-	-
(d) Technological upgrading of agro-based industries and small and medium-scale industries (XB)	6	-	35.0
7.4 ***Operational activities***	157	40	2 045.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Institutional/policy reforms for industrial development	1	-	10.0
(b) Strengthening capabilities for endogenous technological development	1	-	5.0
(c) Technology transfer and negotiating techniques**	1	1	5.0
(d) Promotion of enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation**	1	-	5.0
(e) Technological transformation of small and medium-scale industries through technology blending	1	-	5.0
(f) Strengthening national efforts to enhance technological support services, particularly engineering consultancy services and standardization and related activities	1	-	10.0
(g) Promotion and transfer of energy efficient and environmentally benign technology for industrial development	1	-	10.0
(h) Assessment, selection and management of new and emerging technologies for development*	1	1	5.0
(i) Substantive backstopping for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	2	-	10.0

Industrial and technological development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(j) Women's involvement in industry and technology	1.5	-	5.0
(k) Human resources development for industrial restructuring in least developed and island developing countries	1.5	-	10.0
(l) Investment promotion	1	-	5.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Group training, seminars and workshops in the above-mentioned areas	123.5	26	162.5
(b) Exchange visits of technical personnel for the promotion of ECDC/TCDC in selected areas of new and emerging technologies	12.5	-	135.0
(c) Follow-up technical assistance programme on the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, including the organization of a forum for the promotion of industrial restructuring	7	12	200.0

Subprogramme 8: International trade and development finance

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	336	77	3 100.0
8.1 ***Parliamentary services***	41	10	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Two reports to the Commission on developments in trade and trade policies: issues and problems (annual)*	9	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	10	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement	6	10	-
(d) Substantive servicing of the Regional Consultative Group on Silk (1992)	2	-	-
(e) Substantive servicing of the Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries	2	-	-
(f) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Consultative Forum of Developing Tropical Timber Producing/Exporting Countries (1993)	2	-	-
(g) Substantive servicing of the meeting of the ESCAP Network on Trade Facilitation	2	-	-
(h) Substantive servicing of the Asia-Pacific Consultative Forum on Coffee	2	-	-
(i) Intergovernmental meeting to develop policy issues and measures to combat the adverse effects of the graduation of the generalized system of preferences (GSP) (fourth quarter 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	2	-	-
(j) Substantive servicing of a session of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries (Fourth quarter, 1990) including Substantive servicing of the ninth session of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries (one ouput postponed from 1988-1989) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
8.2 ***Published materials***	67	14	220.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) TISNET Trade Information Sheet (23 issues per year)*	10	-	-
(b) Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products (monthly) [and one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	4	-	-
(c) Trade Information Source Data Bank (bimonthly)	4	-	-

International trade and development finance (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(d) Trade Information Source Data Bank Annual Cumulative Index (annual)	4	-	-
(e) Trade Information Source Directory (quarterly)	4	-	-
(f) TIS QUICK (15 issues per year)**	4	-	-
(g) Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific (sixth edition) (biennial)*	4	-	-
(h) ESCAP Tourism Review (semi-annual) (XB)	1	-	-
(i) The ESCAP Tourism Newsletter (semi-annual)**	1	-	6.0
(j) ESCAP Tourism Review (second quarter, 1990; third and fourth quarters, 1991) [one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	1	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Regional trade review**	2	-	-
(b) Current issues and problems faced by jute, silk and tropical timber industries in the region (two)(XB)	3	-	-
(c) Improvement of production, processing and marketing of silk and tropical timber (two)(XB)	3	-	60.0
(d) The development of other commodities of socio-economic importance to the region (XB)	3	-	22.0
(e) Development of intraregional trade in the mineral sector (XB)	1	-	22.0
(f) Trade profiles (XB)	6	-	60.0
(g) Market guidebook and traders' manual (four)	6	-	20.0
(h) Market profiles of selected products/commodities (two)	-	-	-
(i) Socio-economic and environmental aspects of tourism, tourism promotion and investment (seven) (XB)	1	8	30.0
(j) Study on the impact of containerization on regional trade (fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
(k) Trade review of the Bangkok Agreement (fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	6	-
(l) Study on the environmental aspects of tourism (first and fourth quarters, 1991) [one postponed from 1990-1991]	1	-	-
(iii) *Technical material:*			
(a) Provision of ad hoc technical information services in response to requests from public and private sector organizations	4	-	-
8.3 ***Operational activities***	218	53	2 880.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Restructuring of the trade sector*	10	-	60.0
(b) Expansion of trade through special trading arrangements	15	-	90.0

International trade and development finance *(continued)*

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(c) Effective utilization of financial institutions and support services	9	-	60.0
(d) Strengthening the role of the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation	5	3	60.0
(e) Promotion of joint ventures, investment and technology transfer	16	7	200.0
(f) Trade fairs	4	8	120.0
(g) Export promotion	10	9	195.0
(h) Expansion of tourism*	8	4	160.0
(i) Effective utilization of the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET)	2	-	120.0
(j) Issues of interest to developing countries after the conclusion of the Uraguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations	8	-	50.0
(k) Implementation of trade facilitation measures, including use and application of UN/EDIFACT	6	-	60.0
(l) Reform of the external trade of transitional economies*	4	-	135.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Promotion of intraregional trade, investment and transfer of technology*	9	-	150.0
(b) Improvement of production, processing, marketing and research and development of jute, silk and tropical timber	10	-	200.0
(c) Market and product diversification**	30	-	95.0
(d) Trade and customs facilitation measures and electronic data interchange in trade and customs*	8	-	-
(e) Development of common computerized databases for exchange and dissemination of information	5	-	60.0
(f) National trade/commodity information centres	4	-	145.0
(g) Expansion of tourism*	10	3	160.0
(h) Training for the expansion of trade in manufactures through industrial and trade integration in the region by promoting joint ventures, trade related investments and technology transfer	16	3	-
(i) Training workshop/expert group meeting to promote a multidisciplinary cooperative programme for the development of other commodities of socio-economic importance to the region	7	-	120.0
(j) Training workshops/seminars for the development of intraregional trade in the mineral sector	7	12	306.0
(k) Promotion of exports of developing countries through trade fairs	7	4	125.0
(l) Expert group meeting on expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development*	4	-	75.0
(m) Reform and conduct of external trade of transitional economies*	4	-	134.0

International trade and development finance (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
8.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	10	-	-
(a) Coordination with bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Asian Development Bank, the International Jute Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Natural Rubber Organization and the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community as well as intergovernmental organizations and other bodies	10	-	-

Subprogramme 9: Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	303	100	2 915.0
9.1 *Parliamentary services*	39	4	350.0
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the role of natural resources assessment in sustainable development	2	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on efficient water management for sustainable development	2	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management	1	-	-
(d) Report to the Committee on natural disaster reduction	2	-	-
(e) Reports to the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1993) on issues to be identified by an expert group meeting	12	-	-
(f) Reports to the ministerial-level meeting on launching the regional space applications programme	2	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	8	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the ministerial-level meeting on launching the regional space applications programme (1993)	2	4	350.0
9.2 *Published materials*	129	16	120.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Atlas of Stratigraphy (annual)	12	-	-
(b) Atlas of Mineral Resources (annual)	12	-	-
(c) Urban Geology Monographs (annual)	8	-	-
(d) Mineral Concentration and Hydrocarbon Accumulation Series (annual)	4	-	-
(e) Water Resources Journal (quarterly)	6	-	-
(f) Confluence (semi-annual)	5	-	-
(g) Remote Sensing Newsletter (quarterly)	5	2	5
(h) The Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal (semi-annual)	5	4	15

Natural resources (including marine affairs) (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Geological aspects of land-use planning	6	-	-
(b) Seismic hazard map of Asia and the Pacific	8	-	-
(c) Water resources of member countries and demands by user sectors, Phase II	16	-	-
(d) Water resources series (two)	12	-	-
(e) Waste-water reuse**	6	6	80
(f) Regional remote sensing	2	4	20
(g) Coastal and nearshore mineral resources and construction materials in East, South-East and South Asian waters	10	-	-
(h) Ratification of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (two)*	10	-	-
(i) Study on the benefits derived from rational management of coastal resources (fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1	-	-
(j) Exploration monographs (first quarter, 1990; fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1	-	-
(k) Geological aspects of natural hazards in land-use planning (1990) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
(l) Atlas of Stratigraphy: Triassic [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
9.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	16	14	165.0
(a) Expert group meeting preparatory to the first session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development	8	-	-
(b) Senior officials meeting preparatory to the ministerial-level meeting on launching the regional space applications programme (1993)	2	4	50
(c) Expert group meeting on remote sensing for sustainable natural resources and environmental management (1992)	2	4	25
(d) Expert group meeting on water management in urban areas	4	6	90
9.4 ***Operational activities***	90	60	2 200.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Environmental and urban geology	4	-	40.0
(b) Mineral resources assessment and development*	8	12	300.0
(c) Assessment and sustainable development of water resources*	6	-	-
(d) TCDC in water resources development**	5	-	-

Natural resources (including marine affairs) (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(e) Reduction of water-related disasters	5	12	80.0
(f) Remote sensing and geographic information systems technologies*	4	-	400.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Environmental and urban geology	4	-	80.0
(b) Mineral resources assessment and development	8	12	300.0
(c) Mineral economics, mineral commodities and mining legislation*	4	-	-
(d) The application of geology for land-use planning	6	-	120.0
(e) Assessment and sustainable development of water resources*	4	4	80.0
(f) TCDC in water resources development**	4	-	-
(g) Measures for reduction of water-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific, Phase II*	4	12	100.0
(h) Remote sensing and geographic information systems technologies for resources management and environment monitoring	2	8	300.0
(i) Appraisal of the geology, occurrence, development and management of marine mineral resources*	12	-	100.0
(j) Implementation of integrated national marine policies under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	10	-	300.0
9.5 ***Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison***	29	6	80.0
(a) The South-east Asia Tin Research and Development Centre**	3	-	10.0
(b) CCOP, SOPAC, IOMAC*	2	-	10.0
(c) Governmental agencies	4	4	10.0
(d) Support for the Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific	4	-	10.0
(e) The Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin	3	-	10.0
(f) The Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones*	6	-	10.0
(g) The United Nations Steering Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction*	1	-	10.0
(h) Participation in the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-secretariat Group for Water and Inter-agency Coordinating Meeting on Space Applications	3	2	10.0
(i) The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	1	-	-
(j) The International Geologic Correlation Programme and the Commission for the Geologic Map of the World	2	-	-

Subprogramme 10: Population

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	144	192	3 234.0
10.1 ***Parliamentary services***	48	-	352.0
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Two reports to the Commission on the integration of population and development policies, the development of population policies and programmes in the region and population information issues in the region (annual)	10	-	-
(b) Three reports to the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference on the state and development of integrated population and development policies in the region, the status and development of population policies and programmes in the region and the status and development of technical information activities in the region	10	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	4	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (decennial 1992)	20	-	352.0
10.2 ***Published materials***	59	87	1 760.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Asia-Pacific Population Journal (quarterly)	-	12	136.0
(b) Population Headliners (monthly) (XB)	-	4	100.0
(c) Population Research Leads (three issues per year)(XB) [and two issues postponed from 1990-1991]**	-	4	100.0
(d) Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin (quarterly)(XB) [and one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	-	4	89.0
(e) The ESCAP Population Data Sheet (annual)	1	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Implications of changing age structure and changing nuptiality patterns**	12	-	198.0
(b) Population-poverty linkages: policy implications for developing countries (XB)	5	-	133.0
(c) Internal and international labour migration (XB)	12	-	190.0

Population (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(d) Population change, urbanization and employment generation policies (XB)	2	-	50.0
(e) Population change, women's role and status, and development	-	18	327.0
(f) Consequences of population changes in Asia and the Pacific	-	1	-
(g) Determinants of fertility and related issues	-	1	-
(h) Accessibility of contraceptives in India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka**	-	21	20.0
(i) Review and assessment of population policies and programmes (XB)	3	-	-
(j) Management information system for mother and child health/family planning programmes (XB)	4	-	230.0
(k) New programme strategies (two)(XB)	-	1	-
(l) Asia-Pacific POPIN meeting report (XB)	-	1	17.0
(m) Asia-Pacific POPIN network - catalogues, brochures and manuals (XB)**	-	3	29.0
(n) Asia-Pacific POPIN Directory (XB)	-	2	20.0
(o) Proceedings of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (1992)	4	-	10.0
(p) Bali declaration on population and sustainable development (1992)	1	-	2.0
(q) The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: selected papers (1992)	6	-	28.0
(r) Studies on consequences of the population changes, Asian Population Studies Series (four issues in third quarter; one issue in fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	3	17.0
(s) Studies on the ageing of population and its policy implications in the context of urbanization and industrialization, Asian Population Studies Series (third quarters, 1990 and 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1	-	-
(t) Study on urbanization and socio-economic development in the ESCAP region, Asian Population Studies Series (second quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	5	-	10.0
(u) Study on urbanization and the status of women [postponed from 1988-1989]	1	-	-
(v) Studies related to acceptance of family planning and level and determinants of fertility, Asian Population Studies Series [postponed from 1990-1991]	2	-	-
(iii) *Technical material:*			
(a) Asia-Pacific POPIN data bank	-	12	74.0

Population (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
10.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	3	9	140.0
(a) Third Pre-Conference Seminar for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (XB)	-	3	57.0
(b) Strategy to meet the population information needs of developing countries of the ESCAP region	-	6	33.0
(c) Second Pre-Conference Seminar for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	3	-	50.0
10.4 ***Operational activities***	34	96	982.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) The formulation and strengthening of integrated population and development policies and programmes	-	24	210.0
(b) Fertility research and programme evaluation activities	7	-	-
(c) Improvement of the status of women and their participation in development	-	1	-
(d) Programme strategies for improvement of national family planning programme performances	-	24	210.0
(e) Population information centres	5	3	34.0
(f) Regional and global Population Information Network (POPIN)	2	-	11.0
(g) Advisory services to improve management information systems	-	21	210.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Strengthening the integrated approach to family planning programmes through TCDC	-	2	14.0
(b) Interrelationship between population, environment and resources	3	-	30.0
(c) The Asia-Pacific POPIN network	3	12	182.0
(iii) *Fellowships:*			
(a) Grants to Asia-Pacific POPIN member institutions	6	4	54.0
(b) Fellowships, study tours and personnel exchanges to enhance the effectiveness of Asia-Pacific POPIN members with emphasis on TCDC arrangements	8	5	27.0

Subprogramme 11: Social development

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	144	24	1 065.0
11.1 ***Parliamentary services***	14	9	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development*	1	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on the Regional Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific*	1	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on the regional indicative plan of action on drug abuse demand reduction*	0.5	3	-
(d) Report to the Commission on the International Year of the Family**	0.5	-	-
(e) Background reports for intergovernmental meetings of national personnel on regional and national approaches to drug abuse demand reduction	1	-	-
(f) Background report for review and appraisal of the achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons	2	-	-
(g) Background report for the International Year of the Family	1	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of national personnel on regional and national approaches to drug abuse demand reduction (second quarter, 1992)	1	6	-
(c) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and to design follow-up programmes (fourth quarter, 1992)	2	-	-
(d) Substantive servicing of a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the International Year of the Family (fourth quarter, 1993)	2	-	-
11.2 ***Published materials***	59	3	295.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Social Development Newsletter (biannual)	4	-	-
(b) Compendium of Social Development Indicators in the ESCAP Region (biennial)	2	-	-

Social development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Regional Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific (XB)*	6	-	6.0
(b) Directory of self-help organizations of disabled persons (XB)	6	-	-
(c) National policies and programmes on the family (XB)	6	-	4.0
(d) The quality of life in the ESCAP region (XB)	8	-	160.0
(e) Policies and programmes for the prevention of youth crime in the context of socio-economic development (XB)	6	-	-
(f) The role of the family in development (XB)*	7	-	-
(g) Policies and programmes concerning the integration of elderly persons in development (XB)	6	-	-
(h) Strengthening the role of youth organizations in the promotion of functional literacy among youth (XB)**	4	-	100.0
(iii) *Technical material:*			
(a) Regional information base on drug abuse demand reduction policies and programmes	4	3	25.0
11.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	5	-	-
(a) Assessment of progress and recommendations for further measures to implement the Regional Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific*	5	-	-
11.4 ***Operational activities***	46	12	770.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Support of implementation of the Regional Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific	5	-	-
(b) Development and implementation of national- and local-level drug abuse demand reduction activities	0.5	4	30.0
(c) Youth crime prevention policies and programmes	3	-	50.0
(d) Planning and delivery of social services	7	-	40.0
(e) Preparations for the observance of the International Year of the Family	4	-	-
(f) Community-based drug abuse demand reduction programmes	0.5	4	120.0
(g) Regional network of national agencies concerned with demand aspects of drug abuse reduction	1	4	70.0
(h) Training programmes for mobilization of youth in development, including the promotion of functional literacy	5	-	110.0

Social development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(i) Legislation for the participation of disabled persons in development	6	-	80.0
(j) Self-help organizations of disabled persons	6	-	110.0
(k) Participation of elderly persons in development	5	-	60.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Key social development issues	3	-	100.0
11.5 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	20	-	-
(a) Participation in inter-agency meetings of the Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns**	4	-	
(b) The Inter-agency Committee on Youth for the Asia-Pacific Region**	2	-	-
(c) Coordination through meetings and consultations with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on implementation of a regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-
(d) Coordination through meetings with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on the demand aspects of drug abuse reduction	4	-	-
(e) Liaison with the Division for Social Development, United Nations Office at Vienna, on regional preparations for the International Year of the Family	2	-	-
(f) Harmonization through consultations with non-governmental organizations on strengthening cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in social development	4	-	-

Subprogramme 12: Special programme for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	96	-	800.0
12.1 *Parliamentary services*	28	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Two reports to the Commission on the socio economic performance of the least developed countries of the region in the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (annual)*	12	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	12	-	-
12.2 *Published materials*	27	-	-
(i) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) The mobilization of domestic savings in the least developed countries of the ESCAP region (XB)	6	-	-
(b) Economic aspects of social, environmental and human resources development issues in selected least developed countries**	12	-	-
(c) Review and evaluation of planning process and management in the least developed countries (XB)	-	-	-
(d) Patterns and prospects of economic performance and transformation in the Pacific island countries (Phases I and II) (XB)	9	-	-
(e) Studies on efforts for the mobilization of domestic savings and on financial resource requirements of the least developed countries of the region (second quarters, 1990 and 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	-	-	-
12.3 *Operational activities*	35	-	800.0
(i) Advisory services:			
(a) Cluster meeting on progress in regional cooperation between the least developed and other developing countries (XB)	6	-	200.0
(b) Project planning and implementation in the least developed countries (XB)	-	-	-
(c) Institutional capabilities in designing and implementing macroeconomic policies in the least developed countries (XB)	-	-	-

Special programme for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries *(continued)*

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(d) National development policy and planning processes in the developing island countries of the ESCAP region	9	-	180.0
(e) Assessment of development patterns and prospects, and of options in policy and planning for sustainable economic growth and structural transformation in the developing island countries of the ESCAP region	12	-	220.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Review and evaluation of the planning and management of development policies in the least developed countries	8	-	200.0
12.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	6	-	-
(a) Consultations and coordination with UNCTAD in the review and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	2	-	-
(b) Consultations with the Pacific Operations Centre, the Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission in undertaking studies, research and technical and advisory assistance programmes in the developing Pacific island economies	4	-	-

Subprogramme 13: Statistics

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	192	138	1 500.0
13.1 *Parliamentary services*	16	4	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Two reports to the Commission on statistics and government computerization (annual)*	2	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	12	4	-
13.2 *Published materials*	71	20	50.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Statistical Newsletter (quarterly) [and one issue postponed from 1990-1991]	4	-	-
(b) Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region (annual)**	3	-	-
(c) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific	20	-	-
(d) Foreign Trade Statistics for Asia and the Pacific (annual)	6	-	-
(e) Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly)	8	-	-
(f) Asia-Pacific in Figures (annual)	4	-	-
(g) Government Computerization Newsletter (biannual)**	2	-	-
(h) Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region (third quarters, 1990 and 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	1	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Statistical profiles by subregion (three)	3	-	-
(b) Guidelines for collecting, analysing and disseminating social statistics and indicators (XB)	2	3	10.0
(c) Methodological publication on statistics relating to women (XB)	2	3	10.0
(d) Operational handbook on environmental indicators (XB)	2	3	10.0
(e) Statistical monographs (two) (XB)	2	11	20.0
(iii) *Technical material:*			
(a) Statistical databases	8	-	-
(b) Ad hoc statistical information services and special compilations	4	-	-

Statistics (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
13.3 ***Ad hoc expert groups and related work***	8	-	-
(a) Government Computerization	4	-	-
(b) Statistics*	4	-	-
13.4 ***Operational activities***	83	114	1 450.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Various aspects of statistics and government computerization	20	101	410.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Various aspects of statistics and government computerization*	59	13	1 040.0
(b) Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-
13.5 ***Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison***	14	-	-
(a) Coordination with other programmes as well as at the inter-agency level will be undertaken through the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and its Technical Working Group on Statistical Databases, and the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems. Regular consultations will be conducted with the United Nations Statistical Office, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, many of the specialized agencies, including ILO, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, IMF and UNIDO, and other United Nations bodies, including, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and UNIFEM, as well as the other regional commissions. Coordination will also be effected with bodies the United Nations such as the South Pacific Commission, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Institute of Technology, the World Resources Institute, the Asian Productivity Organization and the International Statistical Institute**	14	-	-

Subprogramme 14: Transport and communications

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	408	216	3 515.0
14.1 ***Parliamentary services***	75	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) One report to the Economic and Social Council on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994*	4	-	-
(b) Two reports to the Commission on the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific 1985-1994 (annual)*	9	-	-
(c) Report to the Committee on Transport and Communications: review of developments in transport and commuinications in the ESCAP region	9	-	-
(d) Report to the Committee on Transport and Communications: implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994*	6	-	-
(e) Report to the Committee on Transport and Communications: development of land transport linkages	5	-	-
(f) Report to the Committee on Transport and Communications: mechanism for strengthening the inland water transport training and development activities in the region**	5	-	-
(g) Report to the Committee on Transport and Communications: major problems in human resources development in land transport	5	-	-
(h) Report to the Committee on Transport and Communications: implementation of a regional action programme on telecommunication**	3	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies subsidiary to the Commission	13	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of a meeting of ministers responsible for transport and communications (1992)	12	-	-
14.2 ***Published materials***	162	99	1 355.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Review of Development in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region (biennial)	13	-	-

Transport and communications (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
(b) Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (annual)	13	-	-
(c) Newsletter on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (semi-annual)	9	-	-
(d) Inland Water Transport Bulletin (annual)**	7	-	-
(e) Asian Highway route maps (annual)	10	10	120.0
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) ESCAP handbook on container terminals in the region	5	4	30.0
(b) The development of intermodal transport (XB)	7	4	30.0
(c) Fuel-efficiency measures for small-sized vessels (XB)**	4	4	40.0
(d) Problems of the ecological and environmental impact of the development of inland waterways and dredging, and their solutions (XB)	5	3	80.0
(e) The status and requirement of dredging (XB)	4	3	30.0
(f) The impact of the ship-users' cooperation project on the shippers' movement**	2	2	30.0
(g) Manual on planning environmentally sound port development (XB)	5	3	120.0
(h) Manual and computer software on regional container flows and shipping requirements (XB)	5	3	60.0
(i) Fuel efficiency investment appraisal (XB)	6	4	80.0
(j) Rail line rehabilitation/modernization/construction	6	6	120.0
(k) Training in urban transport planning (XB)	6	4	120.0
(l) Port capacity modelling (XB)	7	6	80.0
(m) Small port management reporting (XB)	7	6	80.0
(n) Training manual on electronic data interchange in transport (XB)	7	6	95.0
(o) Essays on maritime legislation (XB)**	4	4	80.0
(p) ESCAP directory of railway training institutions**	4	4	20.0
(q) Guidelines for conversion of diesel buses to compressed natural gas	5	5	20.0
(r) ESCAP guide to railway research**	5	5	20.0
(s) An institutional guide to roads and road transport**	6	6	30.0
(t) Study on inter-island domestic shipping in the Pacific area (1993)	4	4	40.0
(u) Port performance comparators (second quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	2	1	10.0
(v) Port statistical review [postponed from 1988-1989]	2	1	10.0
(w) Methods of determination of standard high- and low-water levels (fourth quarter, 1991) [postponed from 1990-1991]	2	1	10.0

Transport and communications (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
14.3 ***Operational activities***	161	114	2 110.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Transport databases and information systems	8	6	40.0
(b) Asian land transport infrastructure	8	6	40.0
(c) Inland water transport	8	4	40.0
(d) Sea transport	8	8	60.0
(e) Roads and road transport	8	6	60.0
(f) Railways	8	6	60.0
(g) Urban transport planning	8	4	60.0
(h) Cooperation in transport and communications industries	8	8	40.0
(i) Regional action programme*	26	16	180.0
(j) Intermodal transport	8	8	40.0
(k) Port development	8	8	80.0
(l) Upgrading of dredging capability	5	2	40.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Strengthening of transport authorities and/or organizations	38	24	1 250.0
(iii) *Fellowships:*			
(a) Ten fellowships for training in the fields of dredging, inland water transport and hydraulic engineering	6	4	60.0
(b) Ten port middle-management fellowships	6	4	60.0
14.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	10	3	50.0
(a) Organization of Inter-agency Consultative Meeting for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994*	3	1	20.0
(b) Coordination of the formulation of the regional action programme for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, through working group meetings of representatives of United Nations agencies, as well as international leading agencies, subregional organizations, national coordinating committees and non-governmental organizations	7	2	30.0

Subprogramme 15: Women in development

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	48	-	1 160.0
15.1 *Parliamentary services*	6	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the integration of women's concerns into development planning*	1	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on the role of women into the informal sector*	1	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in the ESCAP region*	2	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
15.2 *Published materials*	14	-	-
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) WINAP Newsletter (biannual)	4	-	-
(b) Directory of Women Experts in Asia and the Pacific (biennial)**	2	-	-
(c) National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (biennial)	2	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in the ESCAP region**	6	-	-
15.3 *Operational activities*	19	-	1 160.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies	4	-	100.0
(b) National focal points for the advancement of women**	4	-	100.0
(c) National mechanisms for the advancement of women, including WINAP	6	-	860.0
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Promoting legal awareness among women and on information processing and networking for WINAP focal points	5	-	100.0

Women in development (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
15.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	9	-	-
(a) Coordination through meetings of the Inter-agency Committee on Women in Development and through consultations on regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	3	-	-
(b) Liaison through consultations with non-governmental organizations on measures to strengthen the participation of women in development	2	-	-
(c) Liaison with the Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Office at Vienna, on system-wide programme planning in the field of women in development and on regional preparations for the 1995 world conference on women	2	-	-
(d) Coordination through meetings and consultations with concerned ESCAP divisions/units on integrating women's concerns into all aspects of development	2	-	-

Subprogramme 16: Transnational corporations

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
Subprogramme total:	48	-	500.0
16.1 ***Parliamentary services***	16	-	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the role and impact of transnational corporations in priority sectors in the ESCAP region as identified by the Commission on Transnational Corporations (1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(b) Report to intergovernmental committees and bodies of the subsidiary structure of the Commission on main issues in the field of transnational corporations (1992)	3	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on the provision of advisory, training and information services in the countries of the ESCAP region by UNCTC (1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental committees and bodies of the subsidiary structure of the Commission (1993)	4	-	-
(b) Servicing of the annual session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations (1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
16.2 ***Published materials***	28	-	400.0
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) Asia-Pacific TNC Review (annual, 1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(b) Working Papers on Transnational Corporations	1	-	-
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Studies on specific issues regarding the activities of transnational corporations (1992)	4	-	-
(b) Studies on specific issues regarding the activities of transnational corporations (1993)	4	-	100.0
(c) Studies on transnational corporations in selected industries (1992)	4	-	100.0
(d) Studies on transnational corporations in selected industries (1993)	4	-	100.0
(e) Studies on the impact of transnational corporations on the economic and social development process (1992)	4	-	-
(f) Studies on the impact of transnational corporations on the economic and social development process (1993)	4	-	100.0

Transnational corporations (*continued*)

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	(work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	RB	*XB*	
16.3 ***Operational activities***	4	-	100.0
(i) *Advisory services:*			
(a) Advisory services to least developed countries and Pacific Island countries on issues relating to transnational corporations	2	-	-
(ii) *Group training, seminars and workshops:*			
(a) Workshop/seminar on issues relating to transnational corporations (1992)	2	-	100.0

Appendix

Proposed regional advisers requested under section 12 of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Subprogramme	
Development issues and policies	Regional adviser on development economics and planning (EPOC)
Energy	Regional adviser on energy
Environment	Regional adviser on environmental management
Industrial and technological development	Regional adviser on technology transfer and development
International trade and development finance	1. Regional adviser on development policies for raw materials and commodities
	2. Regional adviser on trade policy, negotiations and trade promotion
Natural resources (including marine affairs)	Regional adviser on water resources
Social development	Regional adviser on social development policy and planning
Statistics	Regional adviser on national accounts
Transport and communications	Regional adviser on port and harbour development (EPOC)

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

In the implementation of the following resolutions, there are no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

48/1 Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation

48/3 Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

48/4 Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992

48/5 Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond

48/7 Guidelines for consumer protection

48/8 Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region

48/10 Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT)

48/11 Road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures

48/12 Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

In the implementation of resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, it is estimated that $US 90,000 would be required, in addition to the existing regular programme budget resources for the biennium 1992-1993, for salaries, travel and daily subsistence of the additional external language staff, and supplies. It is also estimated that $US 180,000 would be required from the biennium 1994-1995 onwards.

For resolution 48/6 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, it is estimated that $US 25,000 and $US 15,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995 would be required for the convening of an ad hoc expert group meeting and consultancy services.

For the implementation of resolution 48/9 on strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries, augmentation of funds for three additional regional advisers for ESCAP would be necessary under Section 12 (regular programme of technical cooperation) of the programme budget. Otherwise, extrabudgetary resources would be needed to meet the requirements.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Natural Resources and Energy			
Chairman:	Sompongse Chantavorapap (Thailand)	Sixteenth session Bangkok 16-20 September 1991	E/ESCAP/847
Vice-Chairman:	S. Anggodo (Indonesia)		
	Zhao Xun (China)		
Rapporteur:	M.J. Terman ((United States)		
Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development		Manila 7-11 October 1991	E/ESCAP/825
Chairman:	Mita Pardo de Tavera (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairman:	Tariqul Islam (Bangladesh)		
	Hao Jianxiu (China)		
	Adi Finau Tabakaucoro (Fiji)		
	Sheikh Idris (Nepal)		
Rapporteur:	Toshio Goto (Japan)		

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Annex IV

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Development Papers	
No. 10, Foreign Investment, Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Asian and Pacific Region	E.91.II.F.19
No. 11, Fiscal Decentralization and the Mobilization and Use of National Resources for Development: Issues, Experience and Policies in the ESCAP Region	E.91.II.F.15
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1991	E.92.II.F.4
Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific Vol. XLI, No. 1/2, June/December 1990	E.92.II.F.3
Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1987 and 1988	E.91.II.F.12
Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1989	E/F.92.II.F.2
Quaternary Stratigraphy of Asia and the Pacific ICGP 296 (1989) (Mineral Resources Development Series No. 60)	E.91.II.F.16
Quaternary Stratigraphy of Asia and the Pacific ICGP 296 (1990) (Mineral Resources Development Series No. 61)	E.91.II.F.17
Sectoral Energy Demand Studies: Application of the End-use Approach to Asian Countries (Energy Resources Development Series No. 33)	E.91.II.F.14
Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 25	E.91.II.F.20
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXI, No. 1, March 1991	E.91.II.F.11
Vol. XXI, No. 2, June 1991	E.91.II.F.13
Vol. XXI, No. 3, September 1991	E.91.II.F.18
Vol. XXI, No. 4, December 1991	E.91.II.F.21
Vol. XXII, No. 1, March 1992	E.92.II.F.5
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1991	E/F.92.II.F.1
Urban Flood Loss Prevention and Mitigation (Water Resources Series No. 68)	E.91.II.F.6

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/823	Impact of recent international developments, including the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, on the economies of the ESCAP region	4 (b)
E/ESCAP/824	Report on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond	4
E/ESCAP/825	Report of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, Manila, 7-11 October 1991	4 (c) and 7
E/ESCAP/826	Regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region: prospects, priorities and policy options	5
E/ESCAP/827	Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission	6
E/ESCAP/828	Assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission	6
E/ESCAP/829	Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, 10-16 December 1991	6
E/ESCAP/830	The agricultural cooperative as an institution for the alleviation of rural poverty and other selected issues in the field of agriculture and rural development	7
E/ESCAP/831	Report by the Governing Board of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	7
E/ESCAP/832	Problems of transition in the economies of the ESCAP region	7
E/ESCAP/833	Energy: policy options for responding to the threat of global warming	7
E/ESCAP/834 and Corr.1	Status of and potential for energy conservation in small and medium-scale industries	7
E/ESCAP/835	Progress and functioning of the regional energy working groups	7
E/ESCAP/836	Pacific Energy Development Programme	7
E/ESCAP/837	ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development	7
E/ESCAP/838 and Corr.1	Integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific	7
E/ESCAP/839	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992: preparatory process, Earth Charter, "Agenda 21" and regional follow-up	7
E/ESCAP/840 and Add.1	Progress report on the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies towards the year 2000	7
E/ESCAP/841	Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization, December 1992	7
E/ESCAP/842	Capacity-building for settlement development and management	7
E/ESCAP/843	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/844	A technical consultancy development programme in Asia and the Pacific	7
E/ESCAP/845	Issues affecting trade in manufactures and mineral commodities; trade promotion of emerging market-oriented economies; and trade facilitation	7
E/ESCAP/846	Strengthening of national capabilities in tourism development	7
E/ESCAP/847	Report of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on its sixteenth session	7
E/ESCAP/848	The role of natural resources assessment in sustainable development	7
E/ESCAP/849	Efficient water resources management for sustainable development	7
E/ESCAP/850	Natural disaster reduction	7
E/ESCAP/851	Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management	7
E/ESCAP/852	Progress report on the implementation of Commission resolution 47/8 on regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems	7
E/ESCAP/853	Strengthening of cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in promoting social development	7
E/ESCAP/854	Report of the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	7
E/ESCAP/856	Report of the Typhoon Committee	7
E/ESCAP/857	Causes and consequences of changing family structure	7
E/ESCAP/858	Report on the preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	7
E/ESCAP/859	Report on the findings and recommendations of the study on implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources	7
E/ESCAP/860 and Corr.1	Selected issues in statistics and government computerization	7
E/ESCAP/861	Main issues in the field of transnational corporations	7
E/ESCAP/862	Report on the preparations for phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1992-1996	7
E/ESCAP/863	Report of the Joint Meeting of the Inter-agency Consultative Group and Senior Government Officials on Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1992-1996	7
E/ESCAP/864	New developments in land transport in Asia	7
E/ESCAP/865	Integration of women's concerns into development planning	7
E/ESCAP/866	Report on preparations for a ministerial conference on women in development	7
E/ESCAP/867 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Revised medium-term plan, 1992-1997, in the light of the thematic approach to the work of the Commission	8 (a)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/868	Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/869 and Corr.1	Proposed programme changes for 1992-1993	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/870 and Corr.1	Tentative calendar of meetings, 1992/93	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/871	Report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1990-1991	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/872	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries	9
E/ESCAP/873 and Corr.1	Special problems faced by the Pacific island countries: the Commission's activities in the Pacific	10
E/ESCAP/874	Report on the secretariat's activities in support of the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	11
E/ESCAP/875	Report on progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 46/7 on promotion of foreign investment in least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific and 47/4 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	11
E/ESCAP/876 and Add.1	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP funded by extrabudgetary resources and announcement of intended contributions	12
E/ESCAP/877 and Add.1	Technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1991: information papers presented by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development	12
E/ESCAP/878 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	13
E/ESCAP/879 and Corr.1	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-ninth session of the Commission	14
E/ESCAP/880	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: Membership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.1	Membership of the Federated States of Micronesia	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.2	Membership of the Azerbaijan Republic	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.3	Membership of Turkmenistan	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.4	Membership of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.5	Membership of the Republic of the Marshall Islands	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.6	Consideration of the applications of French Polynesia and New Caledonia for associate membership in ESCAP	15
E/ESCAP/880/ Add.7	Membership of Tajikistan	15

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/881	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	7
E/ESCAP/882	Report of the Regional Energy Development Programme	7
E/ESCAP/883	Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific	7
E/ESCAP/884 and Corr.1	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7
E/ESCAP/885	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	7
E/ESCAP/886	Note on the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the ESCAP region	4 (c)
E/ESCAP/887	Progress report on the preparatory activities for the organization of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology	7
E/ESCAP/888	Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	6, 8 and 12

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, Niue, the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Territory of American Samoa.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned. Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its sub-commissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its sub-commissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving co-ordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUB-COMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, sub-committees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الامم المتحدة

يمكن الحصول على منشورات الامم المتحدة من المكتبات ودور التوزيع في جميع انحاء العالم . استعلم عنها من المكتبة التي تتعامل معها أو اكتب الى : الامم المتحدة ،قسم البيع في نيويورك او في جنيف .

如何购取联合国出版物

联合国出版物在全世界各地的书店和经售处均有发售。请向书店询问或写信到纽约或日内瓦的联合国销售组。

HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to: United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

Les publications des Nations Unies sont en vente dans les librairies et les agences dépositaires du monde entier. Informez-vous auprès de votre libraire ou adressez-vous à : Nations Unies, Section des ventes, New York ou Genève.

КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех районах мира. Наводите справки об изданиях в вашем книжном магазине или пишите по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция по продаже изданий, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librero o diríjase a: Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.

ISSN: 0252 - 2284
Printed at ESCAP, Bangkok
June 1992 - 1,900

United Nations publication
E/1992/31
E/ESCAP/889